



## Trump, at CDC, offers scattershot defense of virus response

Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar looks on as President Donald Trump signs a spending bill to combat the Coronavirus, at the White House, Friday, March 6, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE,**  
**DEB RIECHMANN** and  
**JONATHAN LEMIRE**  
Associated Press  
**ATLANTA (AP)** — President

Donald Trump's visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday turned into a scattershot defense of his administra-

tion's handling of the growing coronavirus crisis, veering into political digs and detours. Trump, wearing his "Keep

America Great" campaign hat while discussing the global worry, tried once more to quell growing alarm about the spread

of the virus in America. But he quickly ventured into side matters and political squabbles.

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In this Feb. 20, 2020, file photo, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, walks with Saudi ambassador to the United States Princess Reema Bint Bandar at Princess Reema's Palace in Riyadh. Associated Press

## Saudi ambassador to U.S. shrugs off Biden, Sanders criticism

By MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press

**CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)** — Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S. dismissed the top two Democratic presidential contenders' criticisms of her country, saying Thursday that candidates' opinions tend to change once they become president. Princess Reema bint Ban-

dar Al Saud shrugged off both Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden saying last year that the U.S.-Saudi relationship should be changed. "I've always found that, many times, once a president gets to the White House, when they see a 360 (degree) effect, opinions can change," Reema said during an interview with The Associated Press in Wyoming. "And so I will never comment on an election — it's not our place — but I look forward to working with whoever's in the White House."

In a November debate of Democratic candidates, Biden called Saudi Arabia a "pariah" when referring to the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Sanders also has been critical of Saudi Arabia, calling it in the same debate a "brutal dictatorship" that treats women as "third-class citizens." The killing of Khashoggi, who wrote columns for the Washington Post critical of the Saudi government under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, provoked outrage and condemnation in the U.S., which has

been a staunch ally. Reema became ambassador to the U.S. in 2019 amid efforts by Saudi Arabia to improve its relationship with the United States after Khashoggi's slaying. Reema was in Wyoming to seek political and economic ties with a major producer of oil and natural gas that has been struggling with fossil fuels' weak markets and uncertain outlook, much like Saudi Arabia. She also drew a comparison ahead of International Women's Day on Sunday between recent women's rights advancements in Saudi Arabia — where women are now allowed to drive vehicles — and Wyoming, which as a territory in 1869 became the first U.S. state or territory to give women the right to vote. "If I want to be a thriving nation, if I want to be a thriving state, if I want to be a global player, certain things must happen," Reema said. "And the focus on women's rights in my country is not because somebody on the outside told us, 'You must do this.' It's because 50% of our community, if you'd like a thriving economy, must participate." □

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**Continued from front**

Trump called Washington state's governor a "snake." He said he'd prefer that people exposed to the virus on a cruise ship be left aboard so they wouldn't be added to the count for the nation's total number of infections.

The president touted the accuracy of the test to detect the coronavirus, which members of his administration have acknowledged is not available to all who wants it, declaring it was "perfect like the letter was perfect. The transcription was perfect. This was not as perfect as that, but pretty good."

Trump was referring to the rough transcript of his July call with Ukraine's president, which prompted a whistleblower complaint that led to his impeachment. Trump, who was acquitted by the Senate last month, has insisted he did nothing wrong.

Trump said his trip to the CDC had been canceled earlier over concern about a possible infection there, but that person tested negative. The visit was rescheduled for Friday afternoon. "Be calm. It will go away," Trump told reporters earlier at the White House after signing a \$8.3 billion coronavirus response funding bill at the White House.

"We have very low numbers compared to major countries throughout the world. Our numbers are lower than just about anybody," Trump said about cases of the virus, which have rocked financial markets, interrupted travel and threaten to affect everyday life in the United States. But his messaging was more haphazard at the Atlanta-based CDC. Despite calling this week for bipartisanship during the crisis, he said he told Vice President Mike Pence not to be complimentary during his Thursday meeting with Gov. Jay Inslee of Washington, where more than a dozen people have died, because "he is a snake."

"Let me just tell you we have a lot of problems with the governor and, that's where you have many of your problems, OK?" Trump said. "So Mike may be happy with him but I'm not, OK?"

So far, 14 people have died in the United States. Trump downplayed concern that the country was not ready to respond to an outbreak. Trump also said he talked on the phone with California Gov. Gavin Newsom about the 3,500 people stuck on a cruise ship anchored off the coast of California. Trump, at the CDC, advocated for the passengers to remain on the ship — in part so they would not count against the total number of victims in the United States. He did say he would defer to the medical experts. The legislation Trump signed at the White House provides federal public health agencies with money for vaccines, tests and potential treatments and helps state and local governments prepare and respond to the threat. "It's an unforeseen problem," Trump said about the virus. "It came out of nowhere. We're taking care of it."

The Senate passed the \$8.3 billion measure Thursday to help tackle the outbreak in hopes of reassuring a fearful public and accelerating the government's response to the virus. The money will pay for a multifaceted attack on a virus that is spreading more widely every day, sending financial markets spiraling again Thursday, disrupting travel and potentially threatening the U.S. economy's decade-long expansion.

The plan would more than triple the \$2.5 billion amount outlined by the White House 10 days ago. The Trump proposal was immediately discarded by members of Congress from both parties. Instead, the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations committees negotiated the increased figure and other provisions of the legislation in a burst of bipartisan cooperation that's common on the panel but increasingly rare elsewhere in Washington.

The president, while touring the CDC, also boasted about his ability to understand the virus, even though he has repeatedly misstated how long it would take for a vaccine to be developed and available.

"You know my Uncle was a



**President Donald Trump holds a picture as he speaks during a meeting with Gov. Brian Kemp, R-Ga., left, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Robert Redfield, Associate Director for Laboratory Science and Safety Steve Monroe, about the coronavirus at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Friday, March 6, 2020 in Atlanta.**

**Associated Press**

great — he was at MIT. He taught at MIT for a record number of years. He was a great super genius, Dr. John Trump," the president

said. "I like this stuff. I really get it. People are surprised that I understand it. ... Maybe I have a natural ability." Trump visited the CDC af-

ter touring tornado damage in Tennessee. He was to spend the weekend at his resort in Palm Beach, Florida. □

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Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in Los Angeles.  
Associated Press

## One more victory: Biden wins most Super Tuesday delegates

By SETH BORENSTEIN and NICHOLAS RICCARDI

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former Vice President Joe Biden has put an exclamation point on his Super Tuesday victories by winning the most delegates on the presidential primary calendar's biggest night.

The Associated Press has allocated more than 92% of the 1,344 delegates that were up for grabs on Tuesday, and Biden has such a commanding lead that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders cannot catch up as the remaining votes from that day's 14 state primaries are counted.

Biden built his delegate lead on Tuesday by racking up huge victories in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia, while scoring a narrow win in Texas. In all, Biden won 10 states and Sanders won four.

"Look, not long ago the press and the pundits declared this campaign dead, but this week we saw tremendous support across the nation," Biden told supporters by phone Friday evening. "We changed the whole narrative."

Sanders won California and three other states — Colorado, Utah and his home state of Vermont. Although Sanders won the biggest state, California, he didn't rack up the commanding lead required to surpass Biden's haul.

Biden has won at least 610 delegates from Tuesday's contests, while Sanders has won at least 513, according to the AP delegate count. There are 102 delegates still to be allocated.

Most of the delegates still not allocated are in California, with the next biggest chunks in Colorado and Utah. Despite Sanders winning all three states, he has already been awarded the largest share of delegates in those states.

Many of the delegates are being withheld because it is unclear whether former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg will finish above the 15% threshold in California, which would score him a significant number of statewide delegates. Regardless of whether Bloomberg reaches the threshold, Sanders can't catch Biden because many of the remaining delegates would then go to Biden.

Bloomberg dropped out of the presidential race on Wednesday.

Overall, Biden has 664 delegates to Sanders' 573. Sanders started the week with a six-delegate lead. Biden's performance was all the more remarkable considering his slow start in the first three contests. Less than a month ago, Biden didn't win a single delegate in New Hampshire.

The contest could now become a drawn-out two-

man battle for delegates to win the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in July. It takes a majority of pledged delegates won in primaries and caucuses — 1,991 — to win the nomination on the first ballot. With only two viable candidates left in the race, the prospect of a contested convention is remote.

The race now enters a key stretch as voters in 10 states cast ballots over the next two weeks. Sanders scrapped an appearance in Mississippi to campaign in Michigan — the largest prize on Tuesday, when six states representing 352 delegates vote. Sanders' move was an acknowledgement that he stands little chance of blunting Biden's edge with black voters in the South and must focus on fighting back in the Midwest.

Four states vote on March 17, including delegate-rich Illinois, Ohio and Florida, where Sanders could struggle because of the state's older electorate and his recent praise of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

When Sanders ran against Hillary Clinton in 2016, Clinton won in Florida, Illinois and Ohio — the three states with the most delegates at stake in the mid-March primaries. In Florida, the biggest prize of the next two weeks, Clinton nearly doubled Sanders' vote. □

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## Trump says sexism not to blame for end of Warren's campaign

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — "Lack of talent." Unlikable. "Mean."

President Donald Trump insisted Friday that sexism wasn't to blame for the end of Elizabeth Warren's Democratic presidential campaign, even as he showered her with insults that are often deployed against women.

Speaking to reporters as he signed an emergency \$8.3 billion funding package to help tackle the coronavirus

outbreak, Trump was asked whether he thought sexism had anything to do with Warren's departure from the Democratic presidential race on Thursday.

"No, I think lack of talent was her problem. She has a tremendous lack of talent," Trump responded. The president commended her debate performances, saying she "was a good debater" who had "destroyed" the candidacy of former New York Mayor Mike Bloom-

berg "like it was nothing."

"But people don't like her," he went on to say. "She's a very mean person. ... People don't want that. They like a person like me, that's not mean."

It's the kind of criticism often directed at female politicians, like when former President Barack Obama condescendingly called his then-rival Hillary Clinton "likable enough" during the 2008 Democratic primary campaign. □



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## Enbridge hires companies to design, build Great Lakes tunnel

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)

— Enbridge Inc. said Friday it has hired companies to design and build a disputed oil pipeline tunnel beneath the channel linking Lakes Huron and Michigan, despite pending legal challenges.

The Canadian company is forging ahead with plans to begin construction work next year on the tunnel, which would replace twin pipes that have lain across the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac in northern Michigan since 1953.

State Attorney General Dana Nessel is appealing a Michigan Court of Claims ruling last October that upheld an agreement between Enbridge and former Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's administration to drill the tunnel through bedrock beneath the straits. The case is before the state Court of Appeals, which declined to put the lower court ruling on hold while considering the matter.

Nessel, a Democrat, also has filed a separate lawsuit seeking to shut down Enbridge's existing Line 5 pipes.

But the company believes its success in court thus far creates "a path forward," spokesman Ryan Duffy said.

"We feel like it's time now for Enbridge and the state to work together and keep the project moving," he said.

Enbridge, based in Calgary, Alberta, planned



In this June 8, 2017, file photo, fresh nuts, bolts and fittings are ready to be added to the east leg of the pipeline near St. Ignace, Michigan.

Friday to provide a status report to the Mackinac Straits Corridor Authority during a meeting in St. Ignace, Michigan. The panel was established by the law that approved the tunnel agreement.

Great Lakes Tunnel Constructors, a partnership between Jay Dee Contractors Inc. of Livonia, Michigan, and the U.S. affiliate of Japan-based Obayashi Corp., will build the tunnel. Arup, a multinational engineering company based in London, will design it, Enbridge said in a statement. Line 5 each day carries 23 million gallons (87 million liters) of crude oil and

natural gas liquids used for propane between Superior, Wisconsin, and Sarnia, Ontario. A roughly 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) segment divides into two pipes that run beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

Environmental groups want the line decommissioned, contending the underwater pipes are aging and vulnerable to a rupture that could do catastrophic damage to the lakes and their shorelines. Enbridge says they're in good condition and sustained only minor damage from a tugboat anchor strike in 2018. For Love of Water, an advocacy group, urged the

common-law doctrine that holds navigable waters and soils beneath them in trust for public uses.

Bypassing those laws is "one of the most egregious attacks on citizens' rights and sovereign public trust interest in the Great Lakes in the history of the state of Michigan," said Jim Olson, the group's president.

Duffy said Enbridge will seek construction permits from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Michigan Propane Gas Association, which favors the tunnel project, said it would "guarantee Michigan residents will have the propane they need throughout the state for generations to come." Opponents said there are ways to distribute propane without continued operation of Line 5.

The Michigan Laborers District Council said the tunnel would provide "many good paying union jobs" and boost the northern Michigan economy. □

Associated Press

corridor authority to halt further work on the tunnel plan. The Traverse City-based organization argued that Enbridge had failed to seek authorization for the project through the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act as required under a

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# Video of black man's arrest spurs outrage, NYPD probe

By AARON MORRISON and  
MICHAEL R. SISAK

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Video showing New York City police officers arresting a young black man sparked outrage and elicited questions about the amount of force used to make the arrest in a city where mistrust of police remains high more than five years after Eric Garner's death from an officer's chokehold.

Fitzroy Gayle, 20, pleads for help in the video, recorded by a woman who then tweeted it, as several officers wrestle him into submission Wednesday evening on a Brooklyn sidewalk. When Gayle asked a lone plainclothes officer why he was being stopped, the officer did not appear to answer before uniformed backup rushed in.

Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said Thursday he was ordering an internal investigation.

"This was painful to watch," Mayor Bill de Blasio tweeted. "We still need to get all the facts about this case and a full investigation is underway, but I don't like what I saw. It doesn't reflect what we're building in New York City."

The city's largest police union responded on Twitter,



In this image made from video, New York City police officers forcefully arrest 20-year-old Fitzroy Gayle in the Brooklyn borough of New York, Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Associated Press

ter, calling de Blasio's remarks "anti-police rhetoric" and accusing him of "inflaming the situation" with a rush to judgment.

The man in the video had fled officers who approached him and another man as they were smoking marijuana in a park around 7 p.m., Shea said. The officers were responding to an automated alert to gunshots, Shea said. Both men were later apprehended, but there is no indication

they were linked to the gunfire, he said.

Gayle was arrested and charged with resisting arrest, obstructing governmental administration and marijuana possession. The second man, whom police have not identified, was issued a summons. The episode is under internal review.

Shea said there were "some disturbing points" to the video.

One of the officers could

be seen standing on the man's ankle, he said, offering a possible explanation for why Gayle screamed during the scrum.

Photos of Gayle taken after the arrest showed abrasions to his knee but no apparent injuries to his face or upper body, the commissioner said.

"The end is what concerns me," Shea said.

A better outcome would have seen officers approaching the men fol-

lowed by "discussion and no running" from police, he said. "No physical resistance at all. No arrest needed."

Gayle's lawyer, Sanford Rubenstein, said the video demonstrates "that the era of stop and frisk is not over in New York City. The police officers involved in this brutal assault must be brought to justice."

Rev. Kevin McCall, a civil rights activist in Brooklyn, said Gayle's family was calling for District Attorney Eric Gonzalez to open his own investigation into the officers' conduct. McCall also said Shea should suspend the officers.

The arrest came on the heels of renewed spotlight on stop, question and frisk, a policing strategy once championed by former Mayor Mike Bloomberg, who expressed regret for its overuse as he launched his now-suspended campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

At its peak, stop and frisk resulted in millions of police stops of mostly black and Hispanic New Yorkers. A federal judge ruled the practice as unconstitutional in 2012, and the city drastically decreased its use the following year. □

# Two attendees at pro-Israel conference positive for virus

By CAROLE FELDMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Two people who attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington earlier this week have tested positive for the coronavirus, the group tweeted Friday.

The cases, in two people from New York, are the first linked to the nation's capital.

Thousands of people attended the policy conference, including some members of Congress and administration officials. Vice President Mike Pence, who is heading the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo were among the speakers.



Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) 2020 Conference, Monday, March 2, 2020 in Washington.

Associated Press

Pence and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health appeared to have been caught unaware of the positive tests

in the two AIPAC attendees.

Asked at a White House briefing if he was concerned that the coronavirus

was now in Washington, Pence said it was the first he had heard about the cases in the midst of a busy day.

"We will be engaged. I'm confident in the same contact tracing that we are for any case," he said.

Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health called contact tracing — the process of trying to find out whom the person had been in contact with — "the public health weapon."

"We need to get those people isolated to do the contact tracing," he said. "We don't have enough information now because this is the first I've actually heard about it also."

AIPAC, a major pro-Israel lobbying group, used Twitter

to announce the positive test results: "We have confirmed that at least two Policy Conference attendees from New York have tested positive for the coronavirus," it said.

The group said it is in contact with health officials in Westchester County, New York, and Washington. It urged attendees to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and to consult with their doctors if they feel ill or have medical questions.

"If you test positive for coronavirus, we urge you to inform your local health authorities so they can properly coordinate their response to this situation with the appropriate health authorities," AIPAC said. □





Adilisha Patrom, owner of a co-working and event space next to Gallaudet University, organizes face masks, hand sanitizer and other supplies inside her pop up shop on Thursday, March 5, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

## Washington, DC, gets its first coronavirus pop-up shop

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The nation's capital has pop-up shops for food and drink, even marijuana. And now, coronavirus prevention supplies.

As local stores sell out of masks and hand sanitizer, Adilisha Patrom, owner of a co-working and event space next to Gallaudet University, saw an opportunity and jumped on it.

Inside, her storefront, different models of face masks and hand sanitizer bottles in various sizes are displayed along a stack of information sheets from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Thursday, one man stopped by, asked how much the masks cost and then left.

A Florida native who came to Washington to attend Howard University, Patrom, 29, sells her masks for between \$5 and \$20, depending on the model. She also puts together prevention kits with masks, surgical gloves and sanitizer, which sell for \$20 to \$30.

The high-end N95 masks are priced at about twice what they sell for on Amazon. But Patrom says her goal isn't to get rich. Rather, she sees the shop as a service to the community and says discounts are available to those in need and to senior citizens, who are most vulnerable to the virus.

"I just feel so blessed to

HAVE, just to have the ability," to stock up on supplies, she said.

The idea started with a health crisis in her own family: Patrom's father was diagnosed with a blood cancer in November. With her father's immune system weakened by ongoing chemotherapy treatments, Patrom bought boxes of N95 facemasks, which are considered superior to the basic surgical masks.

Both she and her father wear the masks routinely when going to the grocery store or elsewhere around town.

As the global coronavirus death toll increased and the virus began making inroads in the U.S., Patrom decided to stock up on hand sanitizers and open her shop. So far, business has been slow. Patrom said she has only made three sales since opening early this week. The majority of her visitors, she says, are just seeking basic information and walking away with a CDC fact sheet.

"I think people haven't started freaking out yet," she said. "A lot of people are just waiting for that first (local case)."

Asked what she thought would happen the day after the first coronavirus case is identified in the nation's capital, Patrom shuddered and said, "There will be a line down the block." □

## 82-year-old with record of bank robberies convicted again

By JACQUES BILLEAUD

**PHOENIX (AP)** — An 82-year-old man who spent most of his adult life behind bars for robbing banks was convicted again for carrying out an armed heist at an Arizona credit union as he struggled to adjust to life outside prison.

Robert Francis Krebs faces a maximum 25 years in prison after a jury found him guilty Wednesday of armed bank robbery. The January 2018 holdup in Tucson came about seven months after he was released from prison.

Krebs served more than 30 years for a 1981 bank robbery in Florida and was sentenced to three years in prison after a 1966 conviction in Chicago for embezzling \$72,000 from a bank where he worked as a teller.

He also served an additional 17 years for theft and armed robbery convictions from Arizona dating to 1980.

In the Florida robbery, the branch manager and teller tripped a silent alarm and were later put in the bank vault. Krebs, who was arrested as he walked into the bank's parking lot, was disguised in a wig, had cotton in his cheeks and varnished his fingertips to leave no fingerprints, according to news accounts by The Orlando Sentinel.

Krebs' attorney, Leonardo Costales, didn't immediately return a phone call and email Friday seeking comment on his client's latest conviction.

Krebs told investigators that he didn't wear a disguise in the 2018 Tucson robbery because he wanted to get caught and return to prison, according to court records.

Documents say he also told authorities that he committed the robbery because his monthly \$800 Social Security payment wasn't enough to live on and that the months before the robbery were the worst in his life.

Last summer, a judge ruled



This photo released on Jan. 14, 2018, by the Tucson Police Department shows Robert Francis Krebs, who has a decades-long criminal record for stealing from banks.

Associated Press

Krebs was mentally fit to stand trial despite his claim that he has symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Two mental health experts said Krebs was mentally competent and believed he was malingering, with one expert saying Krebs had "embellished or grossly exaggerated" his condition to avoid prosecution.

The judge who declared Krebs psychologically fit said he was able to meticulously tell FBI agents how he planned and carried out the robbery.

Prosecutors said Krebs decided the credit union was an easy target because there was no glass separating customers and tellers and that he picked a lending institution near a mall, where it would be harder for police to find him.

Authorities said Krebs walked into a Pyramid Fed-

eral Credit Union branch on Tucson's northern edge, put a handgun that turned out to a BB gun on the counter and demanded cash.

Authorities say he walked away with nearly \$8,400 and later told investigators that he almost got struck by a vehicle while crossing a roadway. He was later arrested at a hotel.

Bank robbery experts say it's unusual for older people to hold up lending institutions. Typically, bank robbers are in their 20s.

J.L. Hunter "Red" Rountree, who has been dubbed America's oldest bank robber, was convicted of committing two robberies in his mid-80s and was 91 at the time of his last heist in the early 2000s. He robbed banks in Mississippi, Florida and Texas.

Rountree died in prison at age 92. □



# EU seeks united front to tackle medical shortages from virus

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Fearing a possible shortage in masks and protective equipment to fight the new coronavirus, top European Union officials are urging members to put solidarity above national interests as the virus spreads quickly across the continent.

Speaking Friday after an urgent meeting in Brussels of health ministers from the 27-country bloc, crisis management commissioner Janez Lenarcic said EU nations are entitled to restrict exports of medical equipment but warned that such decisions could compromise the EU's ability to manage the growing COVID-19 virus crisis.

While Italy is the hardest-hit country in Europe, with 197 deaths and over 4,600 cases, more than 6,470 infections have been recorded across the bloc. The epidemic has been spreading at a quicker pace over the past two weeks, leading the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) to raise the



**France's President Emmanuel Macron speaks as he eats with elderly people during a visit to an EHPAD (Housing Establishment for Dependant Elderly People), amid fear of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, in Paris France, Friday, March 6, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

risk of coronavirus infection from moderate to high.

"Preparedness has to be enhanced still further because simply it is more probable that what we have now in Italy will happen elsewhere in Europe," Lenarcic said.

The last time EU health ministers met, on Feb. 13, no

virus deaths had been reported in Europe. Now the EU has seen 211 deaths, with the Netherlands announcing its first death on Friday.

In response to the outbreak, Germany and other countries including the Czech Republic have banned the export of medical equip-

ment such as respiratory masks, gloves and protective suits. As contagion fears have led to shortages of face masks and sanitising gels, French President Emmanuel Macron's government is requisitioning all current and future stocks of protective masks.

Lenarcic said the European

Commission, the bloc's executive arm, would support such temporary measures only if they help the bloc's common cause, regulate the market, avoid price hikes and do not "favor one member state at the expense of others."

"That would undermine our common approach to this crisis," Lenarcic said.

Europe largely relies on China and India for drugs and protective equipment. German Health Minister Jens Spahn said Germany and others asked the Commission to implement a ban on exporting protective masks and clothing to third countries.

Spahn argued there should be economic incentives for companies to produce pharmaceutical products in Germany, which might mean having to pay more for generic medicines.

He also urged EU neighbors such as Britain, Switzerland, Norway and Serbia to be invited to future meetings on fighting the virus "because this is not about just the European Union, this is about Europe." □

## Plácido Domingo pulls out of Royal Opera House performances

**LONDON (AP)** — Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo, who is ensnared in allegations of sexual misconduct, has withdrawn from this summer's production of Don Carlo at London's Royal Opera House.

The Royal Opera House said in a statement Friday it had been mutually agreed with Domingo that he will not be taking up his role in the Giuseppe Verdi classic in July.

It's the latest in a string of withdrawals over the past weeks as venues have reassessed their ties with the Spanish star. Performances by Domingo have been cancelled in cities including Tokyo, Madrid and San Francisco, among others.

The Royal Opera House stressed that it had not received any claims of misconduct against Domingo



**In this Dec. 19, 2009 file photo, Plácido Domingo performs during a sound check prior to a free concert in Mexico City.**

**Associated Press**

during his time at the venue and said it was "sympathetic" about his reasons for withdrawing.

It added that Domingo, 79, is an "outstanding singer and artist and we are hugely grateful for his support and commitment over

many decades."

The sexual harassment allegations against Domingo surfaced last year in two stories by The Associated Press. The Royal Opera House said Domingo's replacement will be announced in due course. □

## Uzbekistan ends cotton controls, could reduce forced labor

**TASHKENT, Uzbekistan**

**(AP)** — The president of Uzbekistan has abolished state regulation of cotton production and sales — a move seen as a significant step toward ending decades of forced labor in the country's cotton harvest. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's order on Friday ends state-established production targets. Jonas Astrup, an adviser for the International Labor Organization in Uzbekistan, told The Associated Press that local governments and other organizations were ordered to produce certain amounts and that they used forced labor to meet those targets.

Under dictator Islam Karimov, who died in 2016, more than 2 million Uzbeks

were forced to work in the annual cotton harvest. It is a significant export that Uzbeks often call "white gold." Mirziyoyev has implemented reforms since succeeding Karimov, but more than 100,000 forced laborers worked in last year's harvest, according to the ILO. Uzbek cotton has been subject to boycotts by a number of international textile producers and countries, including the United States and the European Union. In 2007, a group of human rights organisations founded the Cotton Campaign, which aims to end human rights violations in Uzbekistan's fields.

The Cotton Campaign will meet at the end of March to decide whether to end the boycott. □





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## MH17 families hope truth emerges from unprecedented trial

By MIKE CORDER

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — United by grief across oceans and continents, families who lost loved ones when Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down in 2014 hope that a trial starting next week will finally deliver something that has remained elusive ever since: The truth.

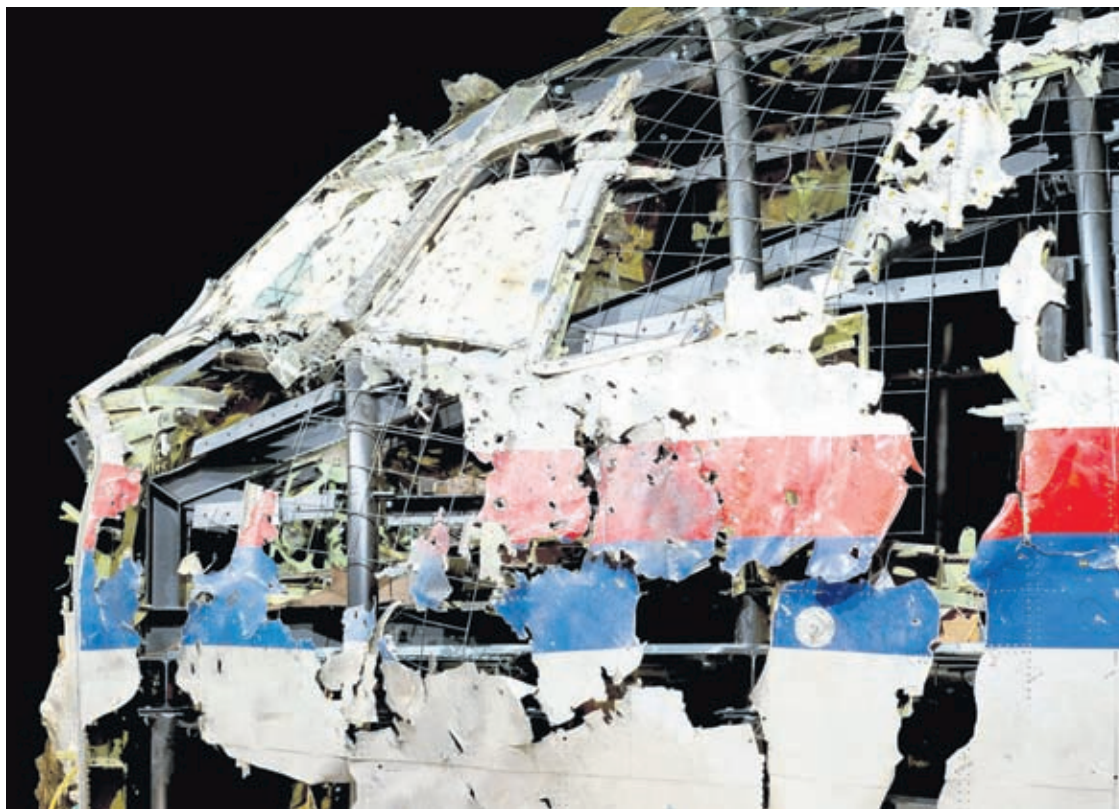
A trial starts Monday in the Netherlands for three Russians linked to their country's security and intelligence services and a Ukrainian rebel commander. They are accused of mass murder for their alleged roles in shooting down the Boeing 777 on July 17, 2014, as it passed over conflict-torn eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew. For the families of the victims, the trial is the latest development in a constant stream of news since they received devastating phone calls telling them that their loved ones had been killed.

Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand's life as she knew it ended that summer day.

Her son Bryce and his girlfriend Daisy were killed when a missile fired from territory controlled by pro-Russian rebels tore the passenger jet apart, sending wreckage and bodies raining down onto fields of sunflowers in eastern Ukraine. The debris field spread across some 50 square kilometers (20 square miles).

"It never will return to normal," Fredriksz-Hoogzand said. "There's a life before and a life after."

Pictures and mementos of the young couple still adorn the walls of the house in Rot-



In this Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, file image, the reconstructed cockpit of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 plane is displayed before a news conference by the Dutch Safety Board in Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands.

Associated Press

terdam where they lived with Fredriksz-Hoogzand and her husband, Rob. The couple's bedroom remains as it was the day they left, heading for a holiday in Indonesia.

On Monday, they will head to a conference center to watch the trial proceedings with other relatives from around the world. The actual courtroom is close to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport where the flight known as MH17 had taken off, heading for Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

The suspects most likely will stay away and be tried in absentia under Dutch law. The scale of the trial is unprecedented in Dutch law, said Marieke de Hoon, an assistant professor of inter-

national law at Vrije University Amsterdam. The international investigation and prosecution are taking place in the Netherlands because most of the victims — 193 people — were Dutch.

"We've never seen anything like this in the Dutch system, it is huge," she said. There are so many victims, there are so many victims' relatives, and they all have the right also to be part of the proceedings — to speak, to claim damages if there is a guilty verdict."

Neither Russia nor Ukraine extradites its citizens. Russia has consistently denied involvement in the downing, even after prosecutors alleged that the Buk missile system which destroyed the

passenger plane was transported into Ukraine from the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade's base in Kursk and the launching system was then returned to Russia.

That announcement led the Netherlands and Australia to declare that they are holding Russia legally responsible for the downing.

After a painstaking investigation spanning years, an international team of investigators and prosecutors last year named four suspects: Russians Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko.

More suspects could face charges as the investigations continue.

Key questions remain over who authorized the missile's movement and who fired the Buk that brought down MH17. It remains to be seen whether the trial, expected to last months, will provide all the answers.

"My expectations are very low," Fredriksz-Hoogzand said in her home. "But what we want is to know the truth. What happened, and how? What were they thinking? Who gave the orders?"

That sentiment is shared in Malaysia by the family of Mastura Mustafa, who was a flight attendant on MH17. "Praise Allah, we hope this trial will give us a conclusive verdict for us to know the truth on who is responsible for the downing of MH17," said her brother, Thaib Mustafa. "We truly hope that this case will finally come to an end after so many years."

A clear picture has emerged over years of investigations into what brought down the flight.

A Dutch crash investigation pieced together the wreckage of the plane after it was brought to a hangar on a Dutch air force base and concluded that it was shot out of the sky by a Buk missile.

Separately, a Joint Investigation Team made up of experts from the most-affected countries examined the wreckage and body parts, questioned witnesses and experts, studied radar and satellite images and analyzed data and intercepted communications before indicting the four suspects. □



# Officials say gunmen kill 32 at ceremony in Afghan capital

By **TAMEEM AKHGAR**

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**

— Gunmen opened fire Friday at a ceremony in Afghanistan's capital attended by prominent political leaders, killing at least 32 people and wounding dozens more before the two attackers were slain by police, officials said.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on its website.

Militants from IS have declared war on Afghanistan's Shiites, and many of those at the ceremony were from the minority Shiite sect. The ceremony commemorated the 1995 slaying of Abdul Ali Mazari, the leader of Afghanistan's ethnic Hazaras, who are mostly Shiite Muslims.

The Taliban said they were not involved in the attack, which came less than a week after the U.S. and the group signed an ambitious peace deal that lays out a path for the withdrawal of American forces from the country.

Interior Ministry spokesman Nasrat Rahimi said 32 people were killed and 81 wounded in the attack in



**An injured man is carried into an ambulance after an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, March 6, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood of Kabul. The Health Ministry gave the same death toll but said 58 were wounded. All of the casualties were civilians, Rahimi said.

Opposition leader Abdullah Abdullah, who is the country's chief executive and was a top contender in last year's presidential election, was among several promi-

nent political officials who attended the ceremony but left before the attack and were unhurt.

Several TV journalists were covering the ceremony inside a walled compound when the gunmen began shooting, and a reporter and a cameraman for a local broadcaster were among the wounded.

Karim Khalili, the chief of

Afghanistan's high peace council, was delivering a speech when the gunfire interrupted him. He was not hurt and later went on TV to denounce the violence.

Several witnesses said that, amid the panic, members of the security forces at the event had fired on civilians in the crowd.

"Individuals with military uniforms who were there

targeted people, there were casualties, dead and wounded," said witness Ghulam Mohammad, according to Associated Press video.

Another survivor, Noor Mohammad, said: "Everyone was running. Three casualties were on the ground in front of me. I ran out of there to save my life."

After opening fire, the two gunmen holed up in a half-finished apartment building, leading to a five-hour standoff with security forces. They were eventually killed and security forces cleared the building, Rahimi said. The area was cordoned off by dozens of security forces.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the violence and reiterated "that attacks against civilians are unacceptable and those who carry out such crimes must be held accountable," according to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric.

"The United Nations stands with all Afghans in solidarity and remains committed to an Afghan-led peace process that will end the conflict," Dujarric said. □

# South Korea, Japan trade travel restrictions in virus row

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

**Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— South Korea announced it will end visa-free entry for Japanese citizens starting Monday in retaliation for a two-week quarantine imposed by Japan on all visitors from South Korea because of its surging viral outbreak.

South Korea's first vice foreign minister, Cho Seiyong, also announced Friday that it will strengthen travel entry restrictions on all foreign citizens coming from Japan and could reduce the number of airports at which flights from Japan can land.

Cho's announcement came hours after South Korea expressed "extreme regret" over Japan's travel restrictions and warned of countermeasures.

He said Japan's move was based on a misunderstanding of South Korea's active efforts to fight the virus, which he insisted were in contrast to Japan's "non-transparent and passive quarantine activity" reflected by its much smaller number of virus tests.

"Our government once again expresses our deep regrets over Japan's measures that it unilaterally announced without prior consultation or notification," Cho told reporters. He did not take any questions.

Relations between South Korea and Japan sank to their lowest point in decades last year as they feuded over trade issues, wartime history and military cooperation.

South Korea has not taken any countermeasures against more than 90 other



**South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, right, meets with Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Koji Tomita at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, March 6, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

nations that have banned or restricted visitors from the country.

The 14-day quarantine announced by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday also will apply to visitors from China. The

government in Beijing issued a softer response, with foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian saying that Japan's measures were "understandable."

South Korea has confirmed more than 6,500 cases of in-

fection with the new coronavirus, but its numbers of new cases have been declining in recent days.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha earlier on Friday summoned Japanese Ambassador Koji Tomita to protest Japan's move and described it as "unscientific," citing progress in the country's quarantine efforts.

Tomita replied that Japan is facing a "critical period" that will determine whether it can successfully stem the spread of the virus. Japan counts more than 1,000 cases, including about 700 from a cruise ship.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the country's strengthened border controls will also apply to Japanese citizens returning from South Korea or China. □





Forensic officers work on a blast site near the US Embassy in Tunis, Friday, March 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## Tunisia: Suicide bombers near U.S. Embassy kill, injure police

By **MEHDI EL AREM and BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA**  
Associated Press

**TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)** — Two suicide bombers blew themselves up near the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia on Friday, killing one police officer and wounding four others, the Interior Ministry said. Lawmaker Yosri Dali, head of the armed forces and security commission, confirmed eyewitness reports that the bombers were on a motorcycle.

Dali said in an interview with Radio Mosaïque that they blew themselves up when a police patrol stopped them to ask where they were going.

Sofiane Selliti, spokesman for the judiciary's counter-terrorism office said the attackers' motorcycle was "packed with explosives." He described on Radio Mosaïque a horrific scene, saying the attackers' body parts fragments were flung a considerable distance.

Hundreds of police

swarmed around the embassy on the outskirts of Tunis, the Tunisian capital, after the bombings. Sharpshooters could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings and major streets were blocked. Security units were placed on maximum alert, the Interior Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman, Khaled Lahyouni, said one of the five officers injured in the blast had died after surgery. A civilian was slightly injured.

The spokesman insisted the dead attackers had targeted the officers on patrol and not the U.S. Embassy. An angry crowd of hundreds of people stormed the embassy compound in 2012.

The U.S. State Department said it was "outraged" by the attack and saddened by the fatality. It said one of the U.S. Embassy's local employees was injured, but it didn't elaborate. The State Department said it is working with local authorities on the investigation.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. Authorities did not confirm media reports naming the attackers.

The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, Clarke Cooper, said combating terrorism is "a long-term proposition ...

there's always going to be a threat wherever you are globally."

This North African nation's transition to democracy has been marred by Islamist extremist attacks. Dozens of people were killed in two attacks in 2015, at the noted Bardo Museum outside Tunis, and at a luxury beach hotel near Sousse, in the east.

Since the fall of Tunisia's hard-line secular dictatorship in January 2011, extremists have increasingly come into the open. Some prisoners serving time for extremist-linked convictions have walked free.

A flag inside the walled-off American diplomatic mission fluttered above the attack site outside the embassy's compound. Police taped off the area, which was littered with charred debris, and forensic teams sorted through remnants of the explosion.

The U.S. Embassy, located in a residential area on the outskirts of Tunis, came under assault in 2012 along with a nearby American school by crowds angered by an anti-Muslim film produced in the United States. Security forces killed four people during the attack in which the American flag was torn down and replaced with an Islamic flag. □



A firefighter disinfects a traditional shopping center to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in northern Tehran, Iran, Friday, March 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## Iran warns it could use 'force' to halt travel amid virus

By **NASSER KARIMI**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iranian authorities warned Friday they may use "force" to limit travel between cities and announced the new coronavirus has killed 124 people amid 4,747 confirmed cases in the Islamic Republic.

Health Ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour offered the figures at a televised news conference. He did not elaborate on the threat to use force, though he acknowledged the virus now was in all of Iran's 31 provinces.

The threat may be to stop people from using closed schools and universities as an excuse to go to the Caspian Sea and other Iranian vacation spots. Semi-official news agencies in Iran posted images of long traffic lines as people tried to reach the Caspian coast from Tehran on Friday, despite authorities earlier telling people to remain in their cities.

Iran on Thursday announced it would put checkpoints in place to limit travel between major cities, hoping to stem the spread of the virus.

Iran canceled Friday prayers across its major cities. Elsewhere in the region, Iraq canceled Friday prayers in Karbala, where a weekly sermon is delivered on behalf of the country's top Shiite cleric. Authorities

in the United Arab Emirates meanwhile limited prayers to two verses of the Quran so they lasted no longer than 10 minutes, over concerns about the virus.

More than 4,990 cases of the virus, which causes the illness COVID-19, have been confirmed across the Middle East. Iran and Italy have the world's highest death tolls outside of China.

In Qom, the Shiite holy city particularly hard-hit by the virus, physician Javad Khodadadi was confirmed with the virus, the official IRNA news agency reported Friday. Khodadadi is head of a hospital in the city and had been treating patients infected with the virus. He is the 14th local medical staff member to become infected with the virus.

In Tehran, firefighters sprayed disinfectant on an 18-kilometer (11-mile) length of Tehran's famous Valiasr Avenue, some from firetrucks and others walking along its sidewalks, spraying ATMs and storefronts.

"It would be great if they did it every day," grocery store owner Reza Razaienejad said after the firefighters sprayed outside his shop. "It should not be just a one-time thing and should be done frequently, especially in places like here where movement and traffic happens a lot." □





# Salvadorans who fled to U.S. to escape violence returned to it

By **MARCOS ALEMAN** and **CLAUDIA TORRENS**  
**Associated Press**  
**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** —

Several years ago, Camila Díaz left her native El Salvador and went to the United States, looking for a place where she would be safer as a transgender woman. But she failed to find a sympathetic ear. Deported back to San Salvador, the nation's capital, she was killed just over a year later. Díaz, 30, was one of 138 Salvadorans deported from the United States who have been killed upon returning to their country since 2013, according to a report by Human Rights Watch.

As the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump steps up efforts to block asylum, the report reflects a bleak picture created in part by gang violence in El Salvador and struggling law enforcement agencies there, some experts say.

"El Salvador is a small country, a poor country, a very violent country and so the police are stretched," said Meg Galas, Country Director of Northern Central America for the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian aid organization.

"When people are deported they are deported right back into the violence and the fear that they left," she said.

International law does not allow countries to send refugees back to a place where they fear persecution. Some activists claim that, under Trump, the U.S. is not following its own procedures of giving asylum seekers a chance to explain their complicated situations and is, instead, blocking their right to be heard.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, or ICE, said Friday that migrants placed in removal proceedings receive all appropriate legal process before the federal immigration courts. The agency only deports people in accordance with federal laws as passed by Congress, said an agency



In this Feb. 12, 2020 photo, transgender woman Leticia shows a photograph of Camila Díaz, another transgender woman she met while migrating to the U.S.

Associated Press

spokesperson who declined to be named in line with agency protocols.

Asylum has always been a long shot for migrants, with many claims denied. It has become even harder in the Trump administration, which has focused on making asylum increasingly difficult to obtain. The Justice Department has said that the goal is to prevent immigrants from overwhelming the nation's immigration system and endangering national security.

More than 144,000 Salvadorans were deported to their home country from fiscal year 2013 to fiscal year 2019, according to ICE data.

Díaz left El Salvador in 2014 after suffering a beating that left her with a dislocated jaw; she had filed a criminal complaint against her attacker, with no result. After a while in Mexico, Díaz returned to El Salvador, where she found work in a bar in a tough neighborhood in San Salvador. But gang death threats followed her, and in 2016 she

once again left the country.

This time, at a migrant shelter in the southern Mexico city of Tapachula, she met Leticia, a fellow Salvadoran transgender woman. Leticia, who asked that her real name not be used for fear of persecution, told her story to The Associated Press.

Leticia and Díaz lived in Mexico for a year and a half. They got asylum papers in Tapachula, but they felt harassed in southern Mexico, so they decided to travel to Mexico City, in the center of the country.

"Because we were trans, and the way we dressed, they wouldn't give us jobs. We were discriminated against all the time," Leticia recalled. "We resorted to prostitution in order to survive."

Desperate, they traveled to the U.S. border, where they turned themselves in to U.S. immigration authorities.

Díaz was held for a couple of months at an immigration detention center in San Diego, California be-

fore she was deported.

Leticia was held there, too, for nine months, as she appealed, until she, too, was deported in May 2018.

"Camila never put up with harassment. Even though she told them over and over again that our lives were in danger, they deported her first," Leticia said. "I kept fighting, but in the end they deported me. Now she is dead."

Díaz disappeared the night of Jan. 30, 2019 as she worked the streets of San Salvador and she was found the next day, badly beaten but still alive.

Emergency personnel took her to the Rosales hospital, where she died on Feb. 3. Mónica Linares, an activist with the rights group Arcoiris Trans (Rainbow Trans) said the group had demanded authorities investigate her killing. What followed was the arrest of three policemen who, according to investigations, had stopped Díaz in the street, and later

threw her from a moving police vehicle on a highway on the east side of San

Salvador.

The policemen are waiting for a judge's decision on whether to prosecute them.

El Salvador's murder rate has declined sharply since 2015, when more than 6,000 people were killed. But the country continues to have one of the world's highest homicide rates, in large part due to gang violence.

Meanwhile, the number of Salvadorans seeking asylum in the United States grew tenfold between 2012 and 2017. Many cited gang threats in their asylum claims, but only about 18% saw their asylum requests approved.

Human Rights Watch said the real number of people killed after being deported may be much higher than 138.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Alexandra Hill Tinoco told reporters that some of the returning Salvadorans who had been killed were gang members themselves. But she also acknowledged that deportees face a social stigma in their home country.

The deaths reported in the Human Rights Watch report occurred during both the administrations of Trump and Barack Obama. Trump has made limiting immigration a centerpiece of his policies, including making Central American asylum seekers wait in Mexico while their cases are being considered.

Human Rights Watch has called on the U.S. government to drop the "remain in Mexico" policy, and drop restrictions that make it harder to seek asylum because of gang threats or gender violence. The Department of Homeland Security, however, says it is trying to make the asylum process more efficient and eliminate fraudulent claims. Despite the hardening of U.S. policies, Leticia, Díaz's friend, plans to try to return to the United States this month.

"I want to undertake the journey again, to see what fate holds for me," she said. □



## LOCAL



## Congratulations to all women in the world



**ORANJESTAD — Women, they are all in one. Mother, friend, sister, lover, wife, daughter no matter what age, they come into this world with the talent to combine different things at the same time. Multi-tasking, as in take care, achieve, struggle, absorb, love, settle and so much more is part of a woman's being. Tomorrow all this is in the spotlight: congratulations to all women out there, you are amazing as you are.**

'This year's theme for International Women's Day (8 March) is, "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights." The Generation Equality campaign is bringing together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the gender-equal world we all deserve. Together, we want to mobilize to end gender-based violence; we are calling for econom-

ic justice and rights for all; bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health and rights; and feminist action for climate justice. We want technology and innovation for gender equality; and feminist leadership. From the Liberian women's sex strike paving the way for peace to the Icelandic "Women's Day Off" demanding economic equality to the global impact of the #MeToo movement, history has taught us that change can happen through collective activism.' ~ United Nations.

Let's take this back to our island and see how far we get with gender equality. We have a female prime minister, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes and we have a growing number of women in higher positions. Those are positive developments, but what about the women in the lower wage jobs which are more likely to be subject to wage

discrimination. They are more likely to bring home far less than their male counterparts with equal job status, and get far less help with housework from their husbands than the high-earning women, states a Wikipedia research. Outside of the work field, domestic violence against women is still an issue and in the workplace, unwanted behavior is present. Great news is that more companies are taking responsibility in this part by providing the new Report App.

The Report App handles all forms of unwanted behavior in the workplace, from the so-called grey area, facts and figures up until everything you need to know about behavior in the workplace. It is absolute a tool to make women feel more safe and secure when experiencing sexual harassment or bullying. The Report App is not only for women by the way, but for all

employees. Looking at the school achievements we notice a situation where the number of boys that become 'drop-outs' is greater than the number of girls. In Latin America and the Caribbean there are more girls that finish primary and high school. Most of the times, girls are taught from a really young age that they should be respectful, flexible and well behaved while boys don't get the same push to have a good behavior. This information is provided by Unesco.

From our island, we go to our company where amazing, strong, hard-working women do their thing day-in and day-out to have two fresh newspapers on the table in the end. Have a look at this picture where the 'women of Bon Dia Aruba and Aruba Today' salute you and wish all the women out there a wonderful International Women's Day. □



## Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) introduces Preventive Health Check Up



**ORANJESTAD — Urgent Care Aruba situated at the Noord Medical Center continues to innovate its services in benefit of their patients and is now introducing health promotion and disease prevention programs focused on keeping businesses, locals, and island visitors healthy.**

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## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD –** We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory in our newspaper. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **Eneida Vásquez from from Montreal - Canada (originally from Venezuela).**

She wrote:

**Aruba to me is.... "ALL".** □



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**ORANJESTAD** – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory in our newspaper. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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For today's newspaper we received a great picture from **James Lane**.

He wrote:

**Aruba to me is "Making memories and living the good life".**





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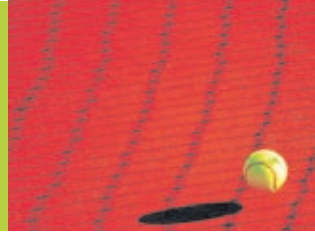
ing the amazing achievements of women for the past 91 years, since the day IWD was first celebrated. Special offer for the day: 2 FOR 1 by the glass or by the bottle, Opera Prima Pink Moscato, Gérard Bertrand Côte des Roses, Balashi & Chill beers. Generous snack platter, loaded with cheeseballs, wings, buffalo cauliflower bites, calamari & fries. With live entertainment from 5PM to 7PM.

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# SPORTS



Sung Kang, of South Korea, hits from the 18th fairway to the green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Friday, March 6, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

## Hatton, Kang share lead on a tough day at Bay Hill

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Tyrrell Hatton lost his swing on his back nine without losing his head, a small victory. He battled through a tough test at Bay Hill on Friday and was only surprised by what he saw when he finished. His tidy short game was strong enough to carry him into a share of the lead with Sung Kang going into the weekend at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

"I just didn't have a clue where it was going," Hatton said after a 3-under 69 in a wind that came out of the opposite direction. "Just happy to get in the clubhouse with no damage done, really."

Continued on next page



## SPICE RACK

### Curry returns; Raptors clinch playoff spot

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots against Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Associated Press  
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**Continued from previous page**

Kang birdied four of his last seven holes for a 68.

Rory McIlroy made a mess of No. 8 and felt he made Bay Hill harder than it was — and it was plenty difficult — for a 73 that still left him within two shots of the lead. Matt Every thought it was awesome that his 65 in the opening round was 20 shots better than his previous round on the PGA Tour. Not so awesome was being 18 shots higher the next day, an 83 that allowed him to join the wrong list in PGA Tour annals by going from the 18-hole lead to the weekend off.

He missed the cut by one shot.

"I really didn't see this coming, to be honest," said Every, who is rarely anything but honest. "But it happens. It kind of happens to me quite a bit."

His last three rounds on the PGA Tour dating to a week ago at the Honda Classic: 85-65-83. He was the first player since Camilo Villegas in the 2013 Honda Classic to go from the first-round lead to a missed cut.

Talor Gooch fared a little better. He followed a 67 with an 80 and made the cut on the number.

Phil Mickelson, who opened with a 77, drilled a 5-iron from 239 yards away over the water to 7 feet for an eagle on the par-5 sixth to get on the cut number with three holes to play. He finished with a double bogey and missed the cut for the fourth time this year.

It's the first time in 25 years Mickelson has missed four cuts before the Masters.

"I thought it was a really hard golf course, and I enjoyed the challenge of trying to play on these type of conditions," Mickelson said. "And I'm a little frustrated that I haven't gotten off to the start his year I would like. I'm not discouraged. I don't feel like I'm that far off."

Henrik Stenson also opened with a 77. He also battled back to give himself a chance to make the cut. And he also took double bogey on his final hole to miss the cut for only the second time in 12 appearances at Bay Hill.

The average score was 74.08, the highest at Bay Hill since the opening round of 2011.

And it left a 69-man field for the weekend that is up for grabs. Hatton and Kang were at 7-under 137, the



**Tyrrell Hatton, of England, lines up a putt on the sixth green during the second round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Friday, March 6, 2020, in Orlando, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

highest score to lead at Bay Hill in 10 years.

Danny Lee had the low round of the day, a 67, that left him one shot behind.

McIlroy, Honda Classic winner Sungjae Im (69) and Harris English (70) two strokes behind at 5 under. Another shot back was a

group that included Patrick Reed, who had another 70 in his bid to win his second straight tournament.

Hatton is making up for lost time from an accident in the oddest of places. He was walking in from the Par 3 Tournament at the Masters three years ago when

it was halted by storms and slipped on pine straw, injuring his right wrist as he braced for the fall. He tried cortisone shots to buy time, and he finally felt the only option was surgery after the European Tour ended its season last November.

The Englishman was out longer than he expected, but he returned in Mexico City by tying for sixth in the World Golf Championships, and now he has a share of the 36-hole lead at Bay Hill. McIlroy was happy to still be in range.

His round looked as though it might come undone when he got caught up in the trees to the right of the eighth fairway and made double bogey, this after a three-putt bogey from long range on the par-3 seventh. He birdied his next hole, limited the mistakes to only one bogey on the back nine and wound up in good shape.

"It was a grind. I think I made it more of a grind than I needed to," McIlroy said. "Conditions were tricky, greens are getting firm, wind was out of a different direction today, so that made things a little interesting, too. ... I'm still right there in the golf tournament." □

## Tiger still not ready, will miss The Players Championship

**By DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — The strongest field of the year at The Players Championship will be without the biggest draw in golf.

Tiger Woods isn't playing.

Woods will miss The Players Championship for the first time when not recovering from any of his nine surgeries. His agent, Mark Steinberg at Excel Sports Management, said in a text, "Back just not ready. Not long term concern."

Woods has played only two times this year, a tie for ninth at Torrey Pines and last place at the Genesis Invitational at Riviera, where he serves as tournament host. Woods shot 76-77 on the weekend at Riviera in the Pacific chill and said his back was a little stiff.

He decided at the last minute not to play the World Golf Championships event



**Tiger Woods hits out of a greenside bunker on the 17th hole during the final round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

in Mexico. He didn't play the Honda Classic for the second straight year, and then he chose not to play the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill, where he has won a record eight times.

The Players was seen as a

likely return, except that Woods isn't ready.

Woods later tweeted that it wasn't an easy decision.

"I have to listen to my body and properly rest when needed," Woods said. "My back is simply just not ready

for play next week. I'm sad to miss one of the best events of the season, OUR Championship."

Woods has been saying all year that he plans to play fewer events, mainly so the 44-year-old with five knee surgeries and four back surgeries can stay in golf longer.

He is a two-time winner on the TPC Sawgrass, most recently in 2013. Woods had the first of four back operations the following year and was at The Players only once over the next four years, a tie for 69th in 2015. He ended that season with two more back surgeries.

Before that, Woods missed The Players in 2008 when it was held in May.

He had arthroscopic knee surgery after the Masters that year and didn't play again until the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, which he won despite shredded liga-

ments in his left knee and a double stress fracture in his leg.

That limits the amount of golf Woods will play leading into his title defense at the Masters, one of the biggest moments in sports a year ago when he rallied to win a fifth green jacket and his first major in 11 years.

Next on the schedule after The Players is the Valspar Championship at Innisbrook, where Woods tied for second two years ago. It was his first appearance at the Tampa Bay event, and it attracted record crowds. After that is the Dell Match Play in Austin, Texas, where last year Woods reached the quarterfinals. It turned out to be a pivotal week in his preparations for the Masters. That's followed by the Valero Open in San Antonio, although Woods has never played the week before the Masters. □



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## Curry scores 23 in return, but Raptors clinch playoff spot

By The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Stephen Curry scored 23 points for Golden State in his anticipated return after missing more than four months with a broken left hand, but the Toronto Raptors beat the Warriors 121-113 Thursday night to clinch a playoff spot.

After being sidelined 58 games, Curry led Golden State out of the tunnel to a big ovation — as loud as his neon sneakers, one pink and one yellow. He missed his first two shots but had three quick assists, including a no-look, behind-the-back dish to Andrewiggins. He finished with seven assists and seven rebounds in 27 minutes.

The two-time MVP hit a 17-footer for his first basket early in the second quarter, then got a huge reaction for a 3-pointer from well beyond the arc shortly before halftime.

He was 3 of 12 from 3-point range and 6 of 16 overall for the game.

Norman Powell scored a career-high 37 points for Toronto, which clinched a playoff berth with the win in a rematch of last year's NBA Finals. The Raptors won that series in six games, finishing with a victory in Golden State's final game at its old arena in Oakland. Kyle Lowry added 26 points and 10 assists, and Serge Ibaka had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who won at Phoenix on Tuesday night to end a three-game losing streak.

**CLIPPERS 120, ROCKETS 105** Kawhi Leonard scored 25 points and Los Angeles



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts after shooting a 3-point basket against the Toronto Raptors during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Associated Press

rolled over Houston for its sixth straight victory.

The Rockets were done in by their shooting woes in a game that was billed as a matchup of two of the top teams in the Western Conference, but was a rout almost from the start. Houston had a chance to take the season series and secure the tiebreaker over the Clippers, but the loss left the teams tied 2-2.

Houston made just 7 of 42 3-pointers to drop its second straight game in embarrassing fashion after losing to the lowly New York Knicks on Monday night. The Rockets ended their streak of 18 straight games with 10 or more 3-pointers

dating to Jan. 20.

Russell Westbrook led the Rockets with 29 points and 15 rebounds. James Harden was 4 of 17 and missed all eight 3-pointers he attempted to finish with 16 points. The two stars and most of the other starters on both teams didn't play for much of the fourth quarter with the game out of

reach.

**NUGGETS 114, HORNETS 112** CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Jamal Murray hit a running, off-balance 13-footer from the baseline with 5.1 seconds left and Denver overcame an eight-point fourth quarter deficit to beat Charlotte.

Murray had 18 points, and Nikola Jokic added 14

points, 11 rebounds and eight assists.

Devonte Graham had 24 points and seven assists for the Hornets. P.J. Washington added 20 points and Terry Rozier had 19. Rozier's 3-pointer at the buzzer rimmed out.

**76ERS 125, KINGS 108**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Tobias Harris had 28 point and 14 rebounds and short-handed Philadelphia beat Sacramento for its first road win in more than a month. Shake Milton scored 20 points and Al Horford had 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists for the Sixers, who also won in Sacramento for the first time since 2015. Alec Burks added 17 points and Raul Neto had 16.

De'Aaron Fox had 23 points and seven assists for Sacramento. Buddy Hield scored 22.

Philadelphia ended its nine-game road losing streak while continuing to play without Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons. Embiid sat out a fourth straight game because of a left shoulder sprain, while Simmons missed his sixth straight with a nerve impingement in his back.

Philadelphia's last road win before Thursday came in Brooklyn on Jan. 20. □





# Zibanejad scores 5 goals, Rangers knock Caps from 1st place

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Mika Zibanejad scored five goals to match the New York Rangers' record, capping the scoring spree 33 seconds into overtime in a wild 6-5 victory over the Washington Capitals on Thursday night.

Zibanejad is the second player in NHL history to score his fifth goal in OT, joining Detroit's Sergei Fedorov, who accomplished the feat on Dec. 26, 1996 — also against Washington. The Rangers center is also the first player with five goals in a game since Winnipeg's Patrik Laine did it in an 8-4 win over St. Louis on Nov. 24, 2018. Zibanejad joined Don Murdoch (Oct. 12, 1976) and Mark Pavelich (Feb. 23, 1983) as Rangers with five goals in a game.

Zibanejad's 38th of the season helped New York end a three-game skid. He is the first Rangers center with at least 35 goals in a season since Hall of Famer Eric Lindros in 2001-02.

Tony DeAngelo had a goal and two assists, Artemi Panarin had three assists and Alexandar Georgiev made 29 saves for New York.

Alex Ovechkin had two goals, including the tying score with 43 seconds remaining to force overtime. That came after Zibanejad scored on a rebound with 1:42 remaining to give New York a brief 5-4 lead.

Ilya Kovalchuk had a goal and an assist, and Carl Hagelin and Garnet Hathaway also scored for Washington. Samsonov had 33 saves for the Capitals.

**FLYERS 4, HURRICANES 1**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Carter Hart stopped 28 shots and four players scored to lead Philadelphia to its eighth straight win.



New York Rangers center Mika Zibanejad, upper left, scores in overtime against Washington Capitals goaltender Ilya Samsonov as Capitals right wing Tom Wilson (43) defends during an NHL hockey game Thursday, March 5, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

Ivan Provorov, Michael Raffl, Nicolas Aube-Kubel and Sean Couturier scored for the Flyers, who won their 24th home game (24-5-4). They won on consecutive nights after beating the Washington Capitals 5-2 and have positioned themselves as a serious threat to make run in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

The Flyers moved into a tie for first place in the Metropolitan Division with Capitals, who lost 6-5 in overtime to the New York Rangers.

Hart earned his 23rd win of the season.

Justin Williams scored his fourth goal of the season early in the third period for Carolina's lone goal.

**BRUINS 2, PANTHERS 1, OT**

**SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)** — Torey Krug scored 4:08 into overtime, Patrice Bergeron also had a goal and Boston beat Florida for its fourth straight win.

Moments before he scored, Krug led a 2-on-1 rush with David Pastrnak that was disrupted by MacKenzie Weegar's poke check. Pastrnak recovered the puck in the corner and passed to Krug, who wheeled into the high slot and slapped the winner past Chris Driedger. Jaroslav Halak stopped 32 shots for the NHL-leading Bruins.

Driedger made 25 saves and Weegar scored, but Florida dropped a franchise-worst eighth straight home game and lost its fourth game in a row over-

all.

**LIGHTNING 4, CANADIENS 0**

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 32 saves, Victor Hedman scored twice and Tampa Bay blanked Montreal.

Vasilevskiy completed his 21st career shutout to help Tampa Bay win for the second time in five games. Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist, and Alex Killorn also scored for the Lightning.

Carey Price finished with 19 saves for Montreal, which was shut out for the first time this season.

**PENGUINS 4, SABRES 2**

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Patric Hornqvist scored twice in leading Pittsburgh to a win over Buffalo, extending the Sabres' skid to five straight.

Sidney Crosby and Marcus Pettersson also scored, and the Penguins won consecutive games after losing six in a row. Evgeni Malkin had two assists to follow a four-assist outing in a 7-3 win over Ottawa on Tuesday.

Matt Murray stopped 28 shots to improve to 3-4-1 in his past eight starts. Jake McCabe and Marcus Johansson scored for Buffalo, and rookie Jonas Johansson stopped 28 shots. Sabres captain and leading scorer Jack Eichel was held without a point for a sixth-consecutive game to mark the longest drought of his five-year NHL career.

**PREDATORS 2, STARS 0**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Fil-

ip Forsberg and Matt Duchene each scored power-play goals, and Nashville shut out Dallas to snap a three-game losing streak.

Forsberg also ended his own 16-game skid with his first goal since Jan. 30, and Duchene scored his first since Feb. 15 to move the Predators back to the Western Conference's second wild-card spot, at least for the moment.

Juuse Saros made 32 saves for his third shutout this season and the 10th of his career.

**SENATORS 4, ISLANDERS 3**

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Craig Anderson made 37 saves and the Senators beat the Islanders, spoiling Jean-Gabriel Pageau's return to Ottawa.

Connor Brown, Mikkel Boedker, Anthony Duclair and Brady Tkachuk scored for the Senators, who hadn't beaten the Islanders since Dec. 1, 2017.

Pageau was making his return to Ottawa after being traded to the Islanders 11 days ago.

Anders Lee, Mathew Barzal and Ryan Pullock scored for the Islanders, who are 0-3-2 in their last five games. The Islanders have been outscored 14-5 in the last three games. Semyon Varlamov stopped 25 shots.

**BLACKHAWKS 4, OILERS 3**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Alex DeBrincat scored two goals, rookie Adam Boqvist had two assists, and Chicago beat Edmonton.

It was the fourth straight victory for the Blackhawks, who climbed within four points of the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews also scored for Chicago. Corey Crawford made 20 saves.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Josh Archibald and Kailer Yamamoto scored for Edmonton, which had its three-game winning streak ended. The Oilers remained two points behind Pacific Division leader Vegas. Leon Draisaitl had two assists, pushing his league-leading points total to 110.

**KINGS 1, MAPLE LEAFS 0, SO**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Anze Kopitar and Adrian Kempe scored in the shootout, and Los Angeles beat Toronto for its fourth consecutive victory.

Jonathan Quick made 36 saves in his 52nd career shutout for the Kings, while Frederik Andersen made 30 saves in his 19th career shutout for the Leafs. The Maple Leafs were shut out for the first time all season, while the Kings were shut out for the sixth time this season.

**WILD 3, SHARKS 2**

**SAN JOSE (AP)** — Zach Parise and Ryan Suter each had a goal and assist and Minnesota extended its mastery on the road, beating San Jose.

Alex Galchenyuk also scored for Minnesota, which won its sixth consecutive road game and moved ahead of Vancouver for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

The Sharks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped, got goals from Stefan Noesen and Joe Thornton.

Alex Stalock, a former Shark, made 40 saves in the net for the Wild on a night Minnesota was outshot 42-27. The game was played in front of the Sharks' smallest home crowd of the season (14,517), on the same day that Santa Clara County officials recommended the team cancel the game due to growing concerns over the coronavirus. □





# Henri Richard, winner of 11 Cups with Canadiens, dies at 84

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Henri Richard, the speedy and durable center who won a record 11 Stanley Cups with the Montreal Canadiens, died Friday. He was 84.

The Canadiens announced the death of the Hall of Famer on Twitter, calling him "one of the organization's greatest legends and ambassadors." Richard had Alzheimer's disease.

He was better known as the younger brother of superstar Maurice "Rocket" Richard and was nicknamed the Pocket Rocket for his 5-foot-7, 160-pound frame. "Henri Richard was one of the true giants of the game," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said, lauding him as an "incomparable winner, leader, gentleman."

Known for his tenacity and playmaking, Richard was captain of the Canadiens from 1971 until his retirement in 1975. He succeeded the legendary Jean Beliveau, with whom he shares the record of playing 20 seasons for the NHL club.

Henri Richard played 1,256 regular-season games, another Canadiens record. He scored 358 goals and had 1,046 points, third in team history behind Guy

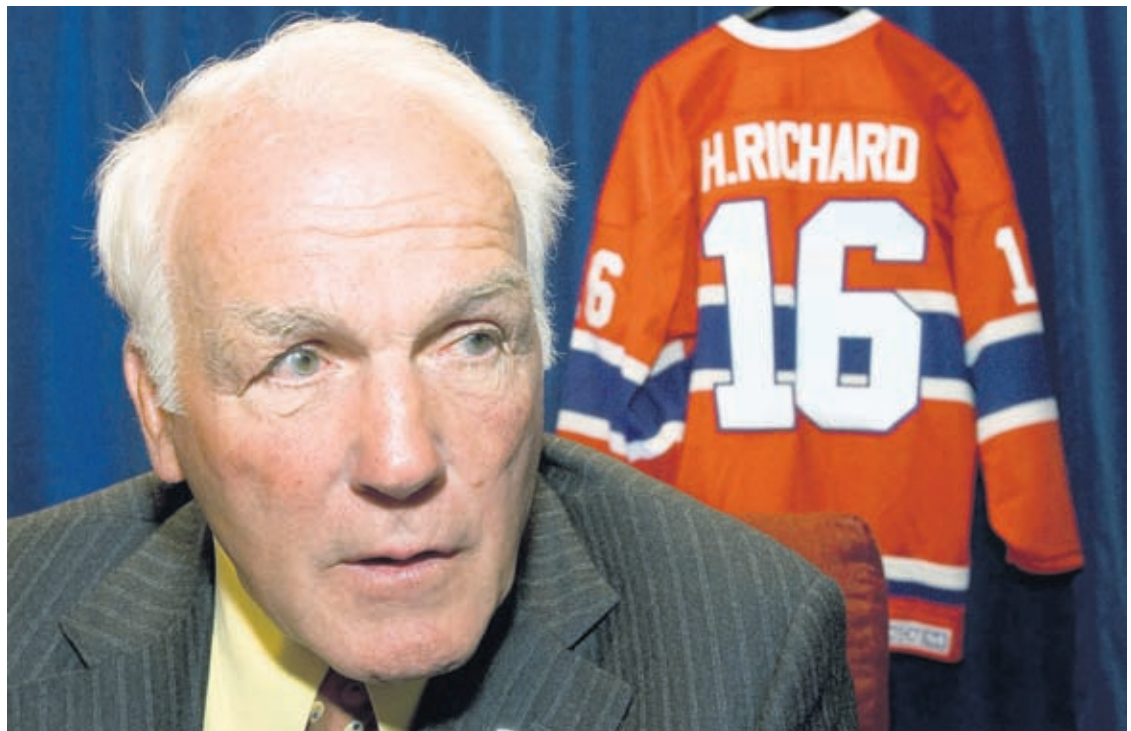
Lafleur (1,246) and Beliveau (1,219). He added 129 points in 180 playoff games.

His 11 Stanley Cups, one more than Beliveau and former Canadiens captain Yvon Cournoyer, is unlikely to be surpassed. Seven were won when the NHL had only six teams.

"No one's going to break that record, it's impossible," Richard said. "I say that without boasting. There are too many teams now and the best players are too spread out."

Richards twice led the NHL in assists, with 52 in 1957-58 and 50 in 1962-63. He had nine 20-goal seasons, including a high of 30 in 1959-60. He won the Bill Masterton Trophy for sportsmanship and perseverance in 1974 and was selected to four league All-Star teams. The Canadiens retired his No. 16 on Dec. 10, 1975, and he was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1979.

He was also hockey's most famous leap year boy, born on Feb. 29, 1936. After a brilliant career with the Junior Canadiens, including 56 goals and 109 points in 1953-54, Richard joined his brother on the NHL club in 1955, just in time for the



In this June 1, 2007, file photo, former Montreal Canadiens' Henri Richard responds to questions in Ottawa, Ontario.

Associated Press

Canadiens to start on a run of five consecutive Stanley Cups. He proved himself right away, with 19 goals and 21 assists in 64 games in his rookie season.

Maurice Richard, who was 15 years older, retired after the 1960 season. Henri stayed on and won four more Cups over a five-year span from 1965 to 1969. A highlight was in 1966, when Richard's only goal in the final was the Cup winner in overtime in Detroit.

In 1971, he did it again, scoring the series-deciding goal in the third period of Game 7 in Chicago. Richard said later he considered that 10th Stanley Cup his most memorable because of the circumstances.

He had been left out of the lineup for Game 5 of the final by coach Al MacNeil. Feeling insulted and unhappy with the atmosphere on the team, Richard assailed his coach in public, calling him "incompetent."

"I was angry and I said some things I probably shouldn't have said," Richard said in a 2009 interview. "I spoke out because I thought it was necessary. 'I'm not saying it's right because it's important to respect the coach, but I just wanted to play hockey.'"

Two years later, in 1973, Richard won his 11th Cup, his only one as captain of the Canadiens. After his playing career, he worked as a team ambassador. □

# Ball kids to wear gloves, not touch towels at Indian Wells

By **BETH HARRIS**  
AP Sports Writer

Tennis players at the BNP Paribas Open that starts next week will have to manage their own towels on court and ball kids will wear gloves while working matches at the combined men's and women's tournament in the Southern California desert.

The measures were announced Friday by tournament organizers, who are offering fans uneasy about the coronavirus a refund for this year's event or a credit for next year. The event runs March 11-22.

A chair will be placed at the back of the court for players to place their towels for use during matches. Ball kids won't be allowed

to touch or move player towels.

Organized player and fan interaction will also be limited at the tournament, which is informally referred to as the fifth Grand Slam because of its popularity with players and fans, many of whom come from overseas. The event typically draws upwards of 450,000 during its two-week run.

This year's field includes Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff.

Organizers "remain very positive" about this year's event, said Matt Van Tuinen, a tournament spokesman.

Other precautions include over 250 hand sanitizing stations set up throughout

the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Besides ball kids, restaurant and food supply workers will wear gloves as will volunteers handling tickets at entrances.

First aid and health workers will have access to masks if necessary and all common areas throughout the facility will be cleaned daily with an antiviral application.

Tournament organizers will coordinate with local hospitals and there will be Centers for Disease Control-approved testing for anyone with symptoms of coronavirus. They are following guidelines by Eisenhower Medical Center, the Riverside County Health Department and the CDC. Organizers said further ac-



In this Nov. 13, 2019, file photo, Rafael Nadal, of Spain, uses a towel after he plays a point against Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, during their ATP World Tour singles tennis match at O2 Arena in London.

Associated Press

tions are being considered and will be evaluated daily

to ensure the safety of players and fans. □





Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich speaks after the Brewers announced his multi-year contract extension at the teams' spring training facility Friday, March 6, 2020, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

## Yelich stakes future to Brewers with \$215M, 9-year deal

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Christian Yelich took to Milwaukee so much he staked his long-term future to the Brewers. "I've said many times that I've only been here for two years, but it feels like it's been a lot longer," the two-time NL batting champion said Wednesday after finalizing a \$215 million, nine-year contract. "Ever since I came, it's felt like just a natural fit, a place that is great for myself and my family, and formed a connection with the community, my teammates, everyone from ownership and front office on down." His new deal added \$187.25 million over seven seasons to the remaining \$27.75 million Yelich was guaranteed as part of the \$49.57 million, seven-year contract he signed in March 2015 with Miami. Yelich was dealt to the Brewers in January 2018, and he won the NL batting title and MVP award as the Brewers reached Game 7 of the NL Championship Series. He added another batting championship and finished second in the MVP vote last year, when his season was cut short by a broken kneecap on Sept. 10. The Brewers reached the playoffs in consecutive seasons for the first time

since 1981-82 but lost the NL wild-card game after wasting an eighth-inning lead against Washington. "Knowing that Christian is going to be here now for the better part of the next decade certainly allows us to map out how we're going to remain competitive for that time period," Brewers general manager David Stearns said, "and that was a priority of Christian's, that we have the ability to remain competitive during his term as a Brewer." If Yelich keeps playing at this level and had he waited until becoming a free agent after the 2022 season, he likely would have commanded far more. "What everybody sees on the field is an MVP, but we have that same MVP when it comes to the leadership Christian brings, the kind of teammate he is and the selfless things he does in the community, many of which aren't visible because he really doesn't look for attention," Brewers owner Mark Attanasio said. The 28-year-old outfielder had been guaranteed \$12.5 million this year, \$14 million in 2021 and a \$1.25 million buyout of a \$16 million team option for 2022. Yelich's new agreement includes the same amounts

for 2020 and 2021, then adds \$26 million annually from 2022-28, of which \$4 million a year is deferred. The deal contains a \$20 million team option for 2029 with a \$6.5 million buyout, which if exercised would make the contract worth \$228.5 million over 10 years. He also gets a provision that he cannot be traded without his consent. Yelich's contract includes the largest guarantee given by the Brewers, topping the \$145.5 million for Braun from 2011-20. Attanasio said talks with Yelich began over lunch last Halloween. Yelich did not discuss an opt-out provision and was not thinking about the potential of free agency. "I don't have any regrets about it. It's just one of those things in the path my career took," Yelich said. Yelich acknowledged Braun, who stood nearby, for talking with him through the process of committing to the Brewers. His eyes welled up with tears when he spoke about the people who helped him. "There's a lot of people that go into today," Yelich said. "I have no doubt that I wouldn't be here without their contributions and their efforts. That's what makes today special." □



Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Matt Ball works against a Los Angeles Dodgers batter during the eighth inning of a spring training baseball game Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

## AP Source: Angels' visiting clubhouse fired for ball-doctoring

By **GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Sports Writer

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — The Los Angeles Angels have fired longtime visiting clubhouse manager Brian "Bubba" Harkins for allegedly aiding opposing pitchers in obtaining illegal substances to put on baseballs, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Thursday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Angels don't publicly discuss the details of internal personnel matters. The Angels confirmed Harkins' dismissal Thursday night to The Associated Press. Harkins was fired Tuesday while the Angels are in Arizona for spring training. He has worked at Angel Stadium for most of the past four

decades. Major League Baseball has been cracking down this spring on the use of pine tar and other substances pitchers use to get a better grip on the ball. Such practices, including a popular concoction from sunscreen and resin, have technically been outlawed for years, but those rules had been enforced sparingly. The Angels moved immediately to dismiss Harkins after learning of his actions in previous seasons, the source told the AP. Harkins started out as a batboy with the Angels. He eventually became a clubhouse attendant in the 1980s, and he has been in his current job in the visitors' clubhouse since 1990. The Los Angeles Times first reported Harkins' firing. □

## Diamondbacks' Domingo Leyba receives 80-game drug suspension

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Arizona Diamondbacks infielder Domingo Leyba was suspended for 80 games on Friday following a positive test under Major League Baseball's drug program. Leyba tested positive for the performance-enhancing substance Boldenone, an anabolic steroid. "We were disappointed to

learn of this news and hope that Domingo will take the time away from the game to reflect on his actions and learn from his mistakes," the Diamondbacks said in a statement. He is considered one of Arizona's top prospects and was 4 for 16 with a home run during spring training this year. □





United States' Carli Lloyd celebrates after scoring a goal against England during a She Believes Cup soccer match in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Associated Press

## The U.S. opens the SheBelieves Cup with 2-0 win over England

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Christen Press and Carli Lloyd scored in the second half to give the United States a 2-0 victory over England in the SheBelieves Cup on Thursday night.

Alyssa Naeher made three saves to keep England scoreless and extend the top-ranked Americans' unbeaten streak to 29 games. Spain beat Japan 3-1 earlier Thursday at Orlando's Exploria Stadium to open the tournament. The winner of the four-team round-robin tournament is determined on points.

The two teams were scoreless in the first half. The World Cup champion U.S. team applied pressure but England goalkeeper Carly Telford kept the Americans from finding the back of the net.

Press' curling shot from distance into the upper right corner put the United States up in the 53rd minute. A few moments later, Lloyd added another.

Press has scored eight goals

in the last eight matches. She had five goals in the recent CONCACAF Olympic qualifying tournament and was named the event's MVP.

It was the 123rd career goal for Lloyd, who led the team in scoring last year with 16 goals.

Julie Ertz came close to scoring in the 78th minute but the United States was offside. Ertz was making her 100th appearance with the national team, becoming the 40th national team player to reach the milestone. The game was a rematch of the World Cup semifinal last summer in France. The United States held on for the 2-1 win after Naeher smothered Steph Houghton's penalty kick in the 84th minute.

Spain, ranked No. 13 in the world, plays the United States on Sunday when the tournament shifts to Red Bull Arena in New Jersey. No. 10 Japan will face sixth-ranked England in the other match. □



Norway's Aleksander Aamodt Kilde speeds down the course during training for an alpine ski, men's World Cup downhill in Kvitfjell, Norway, Friday, March 6, 2020.

Associated Press

## World Cup skiing finals in Cortina canceled because of virus

By **ANDREW DAMPF**

**AP Sports Writer**

Mikaela Shiffrin's chances of extending her three-year reign as overall champion took another hit when the alpine skiing World Cup Finals in Italy were canceled on Friday because of the virus outbreak.

Shiffrin already lost her lead in the standings because of a month-long absence following the death of her father.

The Italian Winter Sports Federation was hoping to host the finals, scheduled for March 18-22 in Cortina d'Ampezzo, without spectators. But during an emergency International Ski Federation (FIS) board meeting on Friday, every nation besides Italy voted to cancel the event, the Italian federation said.

"It's with great disappointment that I accept this decision," Italian federation president Flavio Roda said. "Every member of the board made their decision based on limitations that their respective governments have imposed in relation to the virus."

World Cup rules prevent the finals from being moved to another location.

"This was an extremely difficult decision for us to make, but ultimately welfare and health of the ath-

letes, teams and everyone associated with the World Cup as well as the general public must be our top priority," FIS president Gian Franco Kasper said. "We must respect this very serious situation. We look forward to recognizing the winning athletes at a later date when we can properly celebrate their accomplishments."

Shiffrin announced on Thursday she was returning to the circuit in Europe but she has only one set of races left in Åre, Sweden — if she enters — to try to erase her 153-point deficit to Italian rival Federica Brignone. "It's an inconclusive way to finish the season," Brignone said. "What really hurts me will be the loss of the prize celebrations, which represent a special moment to share with the entire team, and the pleasure of hearing your national anthem play."

"I'm really upset. We were looking forward to racing in front of our fans in order to finish this great season in the best manner possible."

"It's even more disturbing if I think about how well I've been skiing lately, and how every race was an opportunity to post good results. ... I'm also upset because it means I finish second in the super-G standings behind

Corinne Suter courtesy of that hundredth of a second that cost me the victory in La Thuile last Saturday." The cancellation leaves only two weekends of racing left for the men, with Alexis Pinturault leading the overall standings, 26 points ahead of Aleksander Aamodt Kilde, and 107 points ahead of Henrik Kristoffersen.

The title will be decided by speed races in Kvitfjell, Norway, this weekend, and tech races in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, next weekend.

The cancellation of the finals means Beat Feuz of Switzerland clinched the downhill title for a third straight year. He leads Thomas Dessen of Germany by 194 points.

If she races, Shiffrin will be among the favorites in the three races in Åre beginning next Thursday: A parallel slalom, giant slalom and slalom.

The American skier announced in a video posted on Instagram that she was flying to Scandinavia this week.

"I have no promises if I'll actually be able to race," Shiffrin said in a six-minute video message that addressed the emotions about her father, Jeff, who died on Feb. 2. □



# Austin officials cancel South by Southwest festival

**Associated Press**

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — The organizers of South By Southwest — which draws hundreds of thousands of visitors and some of Hollywood and music's biggest stars — announced Friday they had cancelled the annual arts and technology festival, saying they're "devastated" but recognize it is necessary to prevent a serious threat of contagion. Mayor Steve Adler announced a local disaster Friday afternoon as a precaution because of the rapidly spreading new coronavirus, effectively cancelling the annual event that had been scheduled for March 13-22. Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt, the county's top elected official, signed a companion disaster declaration for the county surrounding Austin. The order banned festival gatherings that would attract people from areas where COVID-19 has been found.

No one in the Austin area has been found to have the virus, Eckhardt said. However, South by Southwest was expected to have drawn an international audience into close quarters, posing a serious threat of the disease spreading. Festival organizers noted that Austin Public Health had stated as recently as Wednesday that "there's no evidence that closing SXSW or any other gatherings will make the commu-



In this March 13, 2019 file photo, David Byrne takes part in the "Reasons To Be Cheerful" featured session during the South by Southwest Music Festival in Austin, Texas. Austin city officials have canceled the South by Southwest arts and technology festival.

**Associated Press**

nity safer," but that the situation evolved rapidly and they respect officials' decision.

"We are devastated to share this news with you," the organizers said in their statement. "'The show must go on' is in our DNA, and this is the first time in 34 years that the March event will not take place. We are working through the ramifications of this unprecedented situation."

South By Southwest started in 1987 as a small showcase for up-and-coming bands that turned into an international extravaganza, which now includes movie pre-

mieres and performances from major artists.

The COVID-19 threat is growing rapidly nationally, said Dr. Mark Escott, interim medical director and health authority for Austin Public Health.

"That threat is growing locally because of what's happening in the rest of the United States and across the world," Escott said.

The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus has climbed to 14, with all but one victim in Washington state, while the number of infections swelled to over 200 scattered across at least 18 states, including at least

eight cases in the Houston area.

The announcement comes days after several high-profile companies, including Netflix, tech news outlet Mashable, video-based social media platform TikTok and U.S. chip maker Intel, pulled out of the festival.

More than 50,000 people had signed a petition seeking to get the festival cancelled.

Actor Kumail Nanjiani, who had been scheduled to attend the festival to promote "The Lovebirds," said on Twitter that he was disappointed but that he understood.

"Sxsw is one of my favorite festivals," he tweeted. "Canceling it was the responsible thing to go. I know this sucks for many people for whom this was a massive opportunity. But we're kind of in an unprecedented situation here and caution is key. Thank you for the making the right decision."

Media producer Stephen Stuart, 35, from New York City said he bought a \$1,200 pass but that he's glad the event has been cancelled.

"There are hundreds of thousands of people who come from all around the planet. They're all traveling, they all go to this one place, and then they're all pushed into these rooms confined with one another. It's not really conducive to not spreading a disease."

Stuart said he doesn't know if his ticket will be refunded. It's not the first time a negative cloud has been cast over the festival. A driver plowed into a crowd outside SXSW in 2014, killing two people and injuring 23 others.

The festival drew 73,716 attendees last year, 19,166 of whom came from outside the U.S. Combined with SXSW's gaming expo and education conference, the 2019 event drew 417,400 attendees, organizers said. An economic impact report found it contributed \$355.9 million to the local economy. □



In this Jan. 28, 2020, file photo a Microsoft computer is among items displayed at a Microsoft store in suburban Boston.

**Associated Press**

**By MATT O'BRIEN**  
**AP Technology Writer**

The virus outbreak in China is hurting Microsoft more than

expected, as the company said it won't meet targets that had already factored in the uncertainty.

## Microsoft says virus hurting supply chain more than expected

In particular, Microsoft said revenue from Windows licenses and its Surface devices "are more negatively impacted than previously anticipated." The company said demand for Windows products is still strong, but getting the supply chain back to normal is taking longer. That goes for both Microsoft-made Surface devices and Windows products made by third parties, which include Acer and Lenovo.

Last month, Microsoft predicted it would make between \$10.75 billion and \$11.15 billion in revenue from its personal computing business in the January-March quarter. Microsoft's chief financial officer, Amy Hood, said on a Jan. 29 earnings call that the company had widened the usual range for its revenue forecast because of the "uncertainty related to the public health situation in China."

The company's statement Wednesday suggests that the range was not wide enough to reflect the spread of the outbreak and its ongoing effects.

About a third of Microsoft's revenue comes from Microsoft's personal computing division, which houses the company's Windows operating system, its line of Surface laptops and tablets, its Xbox gaming hardware and software and its Bing search service. □



# Oil price dives as OPEC, Russia fail to agree on output cut

Associated Press

**VIENNA (AP)** — OPEC and key ally Russia failed to agree Friday on a cut to oil production that would have contained the plunge in the price of crude caused by the new coronavirus outbreak's massive disruption to world business. The price of oil fell sharply in international markets as a result, with the international benchmark plunging 9.4%, down by a third since the start of the year.

While cheaper oil will translate into more affordable energy for consumers and businesses, it hurts producing countries and companies. Thousands of workers have already been laid off in the U.S. oil patch.

The unraveling of the talks in Vienna also underscores the limited power of the cartel to influence world energy markets, unlike its heyday in the 1970s. The United States recently became the world's biggest oil producer and keeps on pumping at full capacity. The 14 OPEC countries had wanted to cut output by 1.5 million barrels a day, or about 1.5% of world production. OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran say they need non-member allies like Russia to take 500,000 barrels of that cut on themselves.

Russia, however, proved reluctant and OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo of Nigeria said Friday that the meeting had been adjourned.

"At the end of the day, there was the general painful decision of the joint conference to adjourn the meeting," Barkindo said. He said informal talks would continue because the situation was urgent.

"The numbers are clear: The demand destruction is real," he said.

Barkindo said "one or two" non-OPEC countries at the talks Friday had been reluctant to agree to the proposed cuts.

Russia and other non-OPEC countries have been working with the cartel in recent years and agreed on earlier cuts. However, Russia can tolerate low oil prices



Russia's Minister of Energy Alexander Novak arrives for a meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, and non OPEC members at their headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Friday, March 6, 2020.

Associated Press

better than Saudi Arabia can and appears reluctant to slash output of its main revenue-making export.

While Saudi Arabia can produce oil cheaply, it needs \$83.60 per barrel to balance its state budget, according to the International Monetary Fund, as it is almost exclusively dependent on oil revenue. Russia needs only \$42.40 a barrel. Analysts say OPEC may struggle to keep oil prices from falling further, particularly as the full impact of the virus outbreak on the global economy has yet to be understood.

"There is still too much uncertainty regarding the amount of demand destruction," analysts at research firm Petromatrix said in a note to investors.

The spread of the coronavirus has sharply reduced air travel and thus the demand for fuel, while industry in China, the world's second largest economy, has been severely disrupted through shutdowns and travel restrictions. German airline Lufthansa said Friday it and its subsidiaries will reduce their capacity over the coming weeks to as little as 50% of the level before the coronavirus crisis started.

Some economists think the

global economy may shrink in the first quarter for the first time since the financial crisis, sapping demand for energy.

The international benchmark for crude oil fell \$4.72 to settle at \$45.27 a barrel

on Friday. It had been trading over \$50 in recent days, and is down from \$69 as recently as early January, before the outbreak.

The U.S. benchmark WTI plunged \$4.62, or 10.1%, to settle at \$41.28 a barrel.

With oil under \$50 a barrel, U.S. producers, including oil giants such as Exxon, are scaling back drilling as their profits get hit. The oil patch has already been shedding thousands of jobs and suffering through a surge of bankruptcies, and lower prices will exacerbate those problems.

Barkindo said OPEC was determined to avoid a repeat of the big market slump that began in 2014, when the cartel held off production cuts in order to not lose market share to a resurgent U.S. oil industry. That led to a fall in the price of oil from over \$100 a barrel to below \$40 by 2015.

Even if OPEC and its allies agree on a production cut in the coming days or weeks, analysts say prices are unlikely to rise much. That's because the global economy is slowing rapidly. But also because the U.S., which is not part of OPEC and unlike Russia does not cooperate in its output decisions, has ramped up in recent years, flooding the market and keeping prices down. □

## U.S. consumer borrowing up a moderate \$12 billion in January

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. consumer borrowing slowed in January as borrowing on credit cards declined following a huge surge in December.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that consumer credit rose by \$12 billion following a \$20.3 billion surge in December. The December number reflected the biggest increase in borrowing on credit cards in two decades.

However, in January, credit card use fell by \$3.04 billion following the revised gain of \$11 billion in December. The category that includes auto loans and student loans increased \$15.1 billion in January. That was up from a \$9.2 billion gain in December and was the

strongest increase since August.

Consumer borrowing is closely followed for clues it can give about the willingness of households to go into debt to support their spending, which accounts for 70% of economic activity.

The current economic expansion, now in a record 11th year, has been powered by consumer spending, which has helped to offset weakness in such areas as business investment and trade.

But there are worries that the rapidly spreading coronavirus could disrupt consumer activity enough to harm the economy.

"We expect a fairly stable pace of credit growth in 2020, but the risk is to the downside if consumers —

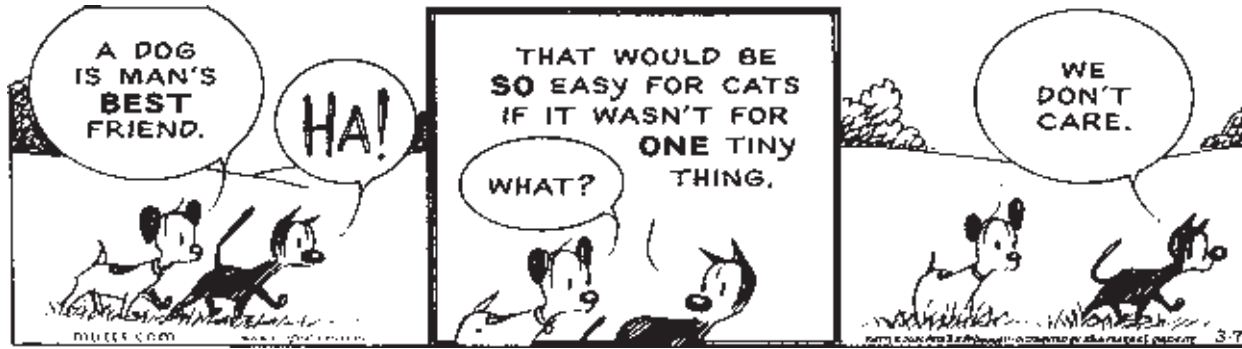
and lenders — pull back as the coronavirus takes a toll on confidence and growth," analysts at Oxford Economics said in note to clients.

However, many analysts believe the adverse effects are likely to be short-lived. They note that the economy had good momentum going into last week when the spread of the virus in China and beyond caused the U.S. stock market to suffer its worst week of losses since the 2008 financial crisis.

The 3.4% gain in overall credit pushed the total to a new record of \$4.2 trillion. The Fed's monthly consumer credit report does not cover home mortgages or any other loans secured by real estate such as home equity loans. □



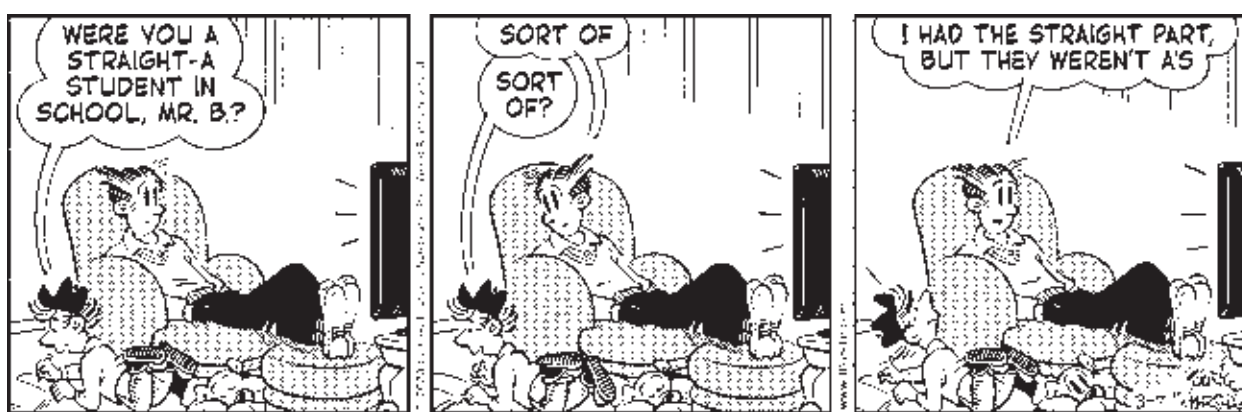
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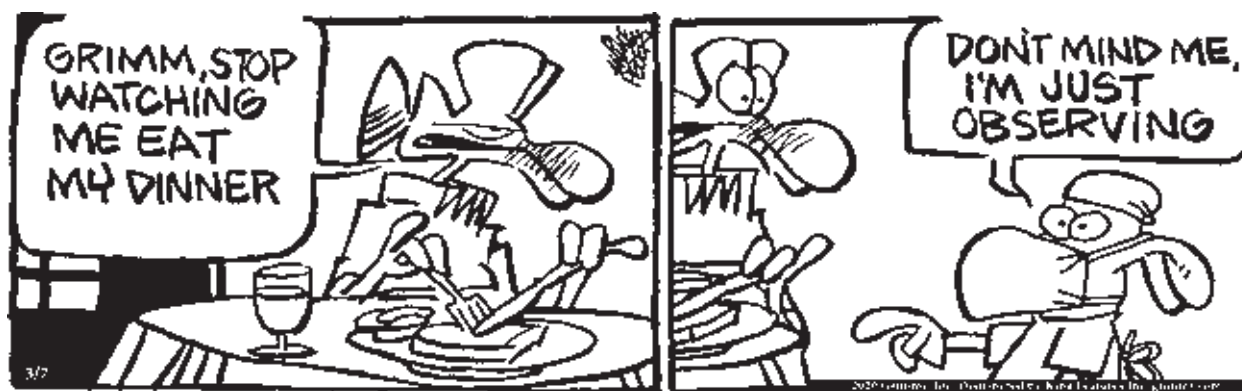
6 Chix



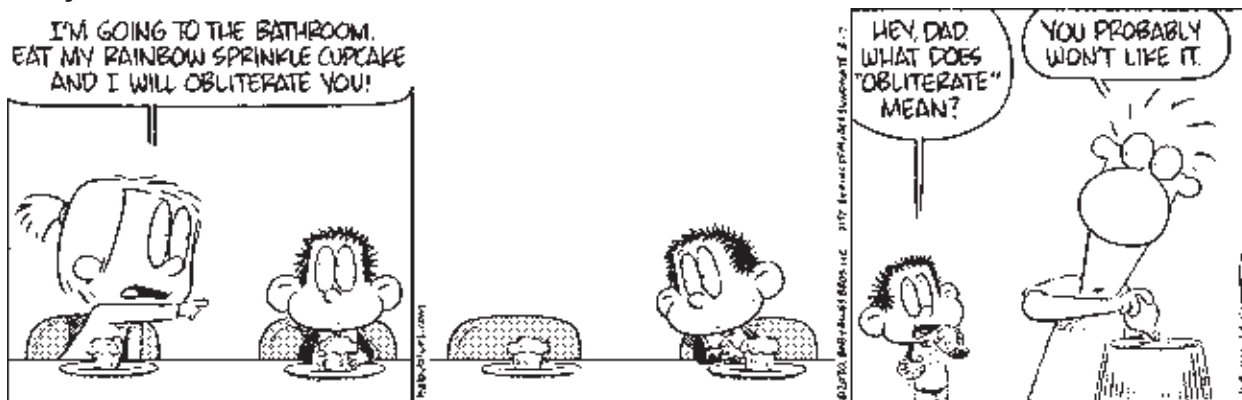
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	7				5	9
	6		7		8	
9	7		4	3		2
	5	1		9		8
	8		3		6	
	9	4				7
						1

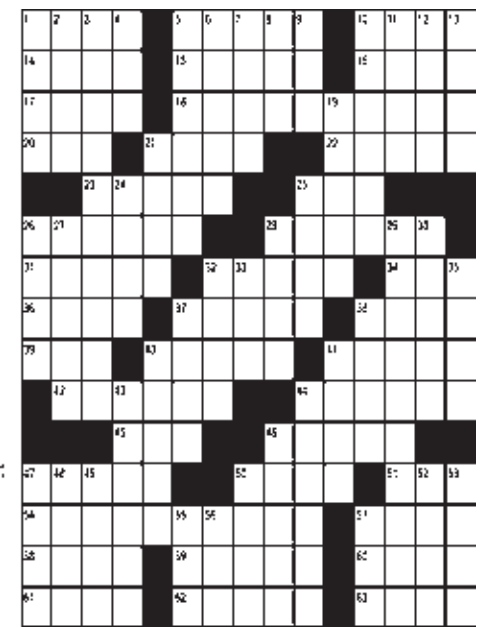
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	5	2	6	3	1	8	4	9
4	3	9	2	5	8	7	6	1
6	1	8	7	4	9	5	3	2
3	7	5	1	6	2	9	8	4
9	2	4	3	8	7	1	5	6
8	6	1	5	9	4	3	2	7
2	8	7	4	1	3	6	9	5
5	4	3	9	7	6	2	1	8
1	9	6	8	2	5	4	7	3

- ACROSS
10. A Ye Faithful
  5. Pass on as a message
  13. Vundered
  14. Wished you hadn't done
  15. Bring together
  16. Cauble's car
  17. Doesn't just sit there
  18. Walker
  20. Enyo: volume perhaps
  21. Brithstones
  22. Puns
  23. Singer Mariah
  25. Door opener
  26. Stops briefly
  28. Against, in a court case like
  31. Soothe, ease
  32. Proverb
  34. Capture
  35. A.Y. P.M. under
  37. Official decrees
  38. Source of vice
  39. African ante ope
  40. up, robes at gunpoint
  41. Terra- patio
  42. Prose works
  44. rooster: lesty title and
  45. Shack
  46. Black-and-white anima
  47. Voracity
  50. Palm tree fruit
  51. Vapor network
  54. Nonsense!
  57. Sma: store
  58. cut a wing: got by
  59. One's strong suit
  60. Vurich man
  61. Live grass blades at dawn
  62. Leg joints
  63. Not relaxed



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

3/7/20

Friday's Puzzle Solved

BOBS	SNOW	PROD
LUAUS	HADA	LANE
OCTET	ORDINANCE	
WHO	RAN	TASTED
NIECE	RIM	
GARRET	NEVADA	
AFOOT	CLOSE	EDS
STUN	GOODS	FLOE
PEG	VIALS	FRERE
RECALL	PIECES	
ALL	SHEET	
MONROE	HIS	ALS
UNEARTHLY	TIBIA	
CLEF	TEAL	ALLOW
HYDE	ESPY	LENS

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3/7/20

41. Candy
42. Yuletide sweet
43. Poorly constructed
44. Washes
45. White adhesive
47. Not up yet
48. Recipe verb
49. screwed up
50. Issue a challenge to
52. Born of tennis
53. Quick-footed
55. JFK's Attorney General
56. Pull on as coming
57. Thai woman





In this Thursday, March 5, 2020 photo, Christian Schmutz, of the Swiss Cheesemakers Association, hoists a 77-pound wheel of the Best of Show winner in the World Championship Cheese Contest at Monona Terrace in Madison, Wi.

Associated Press

## Swiss gruyere named best in world cheese competition

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — A gruyere from Switzerland has been named the world's best cheese, chosen from a record number of entrants from 26 nations in the World Championship Cheese Contest in Wisconsin. The cheese from Bern, Switzerland made its maker, Michael Spycher of

Mountain Dairy Fritzenhaus, a two-time winner. Spycher also won in 2008. Another product from Switzerland, a hard cheese made from cow's milk called Gallus Grand CRU and made by Hardegger Kase AG, was runner-up Thursday, the Wisconsin State Journal reported. □

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3BEDRM \$28k

\*WK. 51 OV \$39k

\*WK. 52 OV \$49k

\* Weeks 7 and 14-all views

#### GOLD Season

2B Oceanfront \$14k

2B Oceanside \$8k

GV \$5k OV \$7k

3BEDRM \$13k

### Marriott Aruba Ocean

#### PLATINUM Season

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2B OF \$26k

1B OV \$9k

\*\* Destination points \$8 per

point

#### GOLD Season

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2B OV \$9k

1 Bed \$4k

1B OF \$9k

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# Great Barrier Reef enters crucial period in coral bleaching

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**

— The Great Barrier Reef is facing a critical period of heat stress over the coming weeks following the most widespread coral bleaching the natural wonder has ever endured, scientists said Friday.

David Wachenfeld, chief scientist at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the government agency that manages the coral expanse off northeast Australia, said ocean temperatures over the next month will be crucial to how the reef recovers from heat-induced bleaching.

"The forecasts ... indicate that we can expect ongoing levels of thermal stress for at least the next two weeks and maybe three or four weeks," Wachenfeld said in a weekly update on the reef's health.

"So this still is a critical time for the reef and it is the weather conditions over the next two to four weeks that will determine the final outcome," he said.

Ocean temperatures across most of the reef



This Sept. 10, 2001, file photo shows Agincourt Reef, located about 30 miles off the coast near the northern reaches of the 1,200-mile long Great Barrier Reef.

Associated Press

were 0.5 to 1.5 degrees Celsius (0.9 to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above the March average.

In parts of the marine park in the south close to shore which avoided the ravages of previous bleachings, ocean temperatures were 2 to 3 degrees Celsius (3.6 to 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) above average.

The authority has received 250 reports of sightings of bleached coral due to elevated ocean temperatures during an unusually hot February.

The 345,400-square kilometer (133,360-square mile) World Heritage-listed colorful coral network has been devastated by four coral bleaching events since

1998. The most deadly were the most recent, in consecutive summers in 2016 and 2017.

Scientists fear the latest coral death rate could match those events.

"At the moment, it's definitely the most extensive bleaching event we've ever had," U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Coral Reef Watch scientist William Skirving said Friday.

"It's certainly an end-to-end bleaching event with severe bits at each end and it's not looking good for the southern end, but it really depends on the weather in the next two weeks," he said.

Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, a scientist from the Australian Research Council Center for Excellence in Coral Reef Studies, said how much of the bleached coral would recover and how much would die would not be known for weeks.

"I'm very worried about the situation given how warm the temperatures are on the Great Barrier Reef and what the projections are," Hoegh-Guldberg said.

"If it cools down a bit, they'll recover or, if not, we may head off into something not too different from 2016 and 2017. We're right at the fork in the road," he added. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority last year downgraded its outlook for the corals' condition from "poor" to "very poor" due to warming oceans. □



In this Dec. 17, 2019 photo made available by NASA, engineers watch the first driving test for the Mars 2020 rover in a clean room at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

## Meet Perseverance: Mars rover gets name ahead of July launch

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**

— NASA's next Mars rover finally has a name. Perseverance, a six-wheeled robotic explorer, will blast off this summer to collect Martian samples for eventual return to Earth.

The name was suggested by Alex Mather, a Virginia seventh-grader, as part of a naming contest for U.S. schoolchildren. The U.S. space agency announced it Thursday at Alex's school in Burke, Virginia, and he got to read his winning essay live on NASA TV.

"We are a species of explorers and we will meet many setbacks on the way to Mars. However, we can persevere," Alex wrote. "We, not as a nation, but as humans, will not give up.

The human race will always persevere into the future."

NASA's associate administrator for science missions, Thomas Zurbuchen, noted that the space agency's Curiosity rover has been roaming around Mars since 2012, when Alex and his classmates were babies or little kids.

"Perseverance and curiosity together are what exploration is all about," he said. Nearly 4,700 volunteer judges had narrowed a pool of 28,000 contest entries down to 155 semifinalists. Once it was down to nine finalists, the public was invited to vote online.

Mather and his family won a trip to Cape Canaveral, Florida, to watch Perseverance get launched into space in July.

The boy became enam-

ored with space at age 11 while attending Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. That's when video games took a back seat. He said he wants to become an engineer and work for NASA.

The rover is undergoing final preparations at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The nameplate will be on the rover's robot arm and serve as a protective rock guard. □

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## AP Exclusive: NRA firearms auction at country museum nixed

By KRISTIN M. HALL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

For weeks the National Rifle Association has been publicizing plans to hold a fundraising dinner at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum where it planned to auction off firearms, even as many country music artists have distanced themselves from the gun rights organization.

But a spokesperson for the museum confirmed to The Associated Press that the April 17 event will not take place at the site after the AP asked questions about the museum's no firearms policy. The NRA's relationship with country artists and music organizations has fractured in recent years after several mass shootings, including one at a Las Vegas country music festival in 2017.

The NRA is holding its annual convention this April in downtown Nashville. Touted as one of the premiere events of the convention, the \$500-per ticket NRA-ILA dinner and auction at the museum promised "celebrities, industry executives and a host of Second Amendment supporters from around the country." The Institute for Legislative Action is the NRA's lobbying arm. Last week, the NRA publicized that auction items would include "engraved firearms, sup-



In this May 25, 2018 photo, visitors to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn. view the the Outlaws & Armadillos exhibit.

Associated Press

pressors, knives, fine art, hunts, optics and trips from around the globe."

The museum, which calls itself "the Smithsonian of country music," is one of the Nashville's biggest tourist draws, bringing in a record 1.3 million visitors last year. The museum also rents out private event spaces.

On Feb. 28, Kelly McGlumphy, the museum's director of communications, confirmed to the AP that the museum's policy prohibits firearms, loaded or unloaded, or other weapons, in the building whether visible or concealed. When

asked how the policy affected the NRA's plans for an auction that included firearms, McGlumphy, said that the museum was talking to the NRA about the auction. Nearly a week later, on Thursday evening, McGlumphy told the AP that "following those discussions, the organization will not be holding their event at the museum."

It's not clear which side made the decision. The convention will still be held at the Music City Center, a nearby convention site. The NRA did not return calls from the AP about the auc-

tion, but previously, the NRA's website for the fundraiser had an image of a woman displaying a rifle in a crowded room.

For years, the NRA partnered with and publicized country artists as a part of a lifestyle marketing campaign called NRA Country. They promoted country artists on their website, paid for advertising for the artists and hired them to perform at NRA events. NRA partnered with the Academy of Country Music in 2011 and 2012 to put on a celebrity shooting competition that was hosted by

Blake Shelton and included artists like Luke Bryan, Montgomery Gentry and Justin Moore. In 2015, when the NRA last held its convention in Nashville, the organization sponsored an Alan Jackson concert and held NRA Country Jam, a free concert featuring Hank Williams Jr. and Colt Ford.

"Part of it is buying friends. They are supporting artists, giving them money, tour support, basically hiring them to play at events," said Don Cusic, a Belmont University professor and country music historian.

Cusic said that in the wake of mass shootings, some country artists changed their tune about teaming up with the NRA — privately and more publicly.

"They went from seeing the NRA as an opportunity in terms of marketing, publicity and tour support money to a big liability," Cusic said. "And they are going to avoid that. They aren't going to say it out loud, but they're gonna have a private meeting."

Certain country artists have been vocal on gun control. Tyler Hubbard of Florida Georgia Line, the hit duo that NRA Country once publicized on its website, called for universal background checks on firearm sales in 2018 and faced a backlash from gun rights supporters. □

## Trebek reaches 1-year mark in cancer fight with hope, candor

By LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alex

Trebek marked his one-year battle against pancreatic cancer with candor about how hard it's been and a vow to keep going.

"I'd be lying if I said the journey had been an easy one. There have been some good days, but a lot of not-so-good days," the longtime "Jeopardy!" host said in a video message posted online Wednesday. He's joked with friends that "the cancer won't kill me, the chemo treatments will," Trebek said.

Moments of pain and attacks of "great depression" caused him to wonder if he

could continue the fight, he said.

"But I brushed that aside quickly, because that would have been a massive betrayal, a betrayal of my wife and soul mate Jean, who has given her all to help me survive," Trebek said. "It would have been a betrayal of other cancer patients who have looked to me as an inspiration, and a cheerleader of sorts, for the value of living and hope. And it would certainly have been a betrayal of my faith in God and the millions of prayers that have been said on my behalf."

He hasn't faltered in his work, continuing to host

the "Jeopardy!" quiz show despite his cancer and even a nagging cold that was noticeable in recent episodes. His only on-air concession to the illness has been the wig that he acknowledged covers his treatment-induced hair loss.

Trebek, 79, recounted a recent, upbeat conversation with his oncologist. He said he was certain that "one year from now, the two of us would be sitting in his office celebrating my second anniversary of survival."

He offered advice and encouragement to others fighting the disease.

"If we take it just one day at



In this April 30, 2017, file photo, Alex Trebek speaks at the 44th annual Daytime Emmy Awards at the Pasadena Civic Center in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

a time with a positive attitude, anything is possible,"

Trebek said. "I'll keep you posted." □





This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Al Madrigal, left, and Ben Affleck in a scene from "The Way Back."

Associated Press

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FRI 5:15 | 7:40 | 10:00  
SAT 2:50 | 5:15 | 7:40 | 10:00  
SUN 2:50 | 5:15 | 7:40

**PBP** **VIP** MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00  
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TIGER SHROFF | SHRADDHA KAPOOR  
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SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SUN 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

**PBP** MON-THU 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40  
FRI 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45  
SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45  
SUN 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40

**SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20  
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40  
SAT 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 10:40  
SUN 3:40 | 6:00 | 8:20

**PBP** **VIP** MON-FRI 4:20  
SAT-SUN 2:05 | 4:20

**PBP** MON-THU 5:05 | 7:20  
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 10:00  
SAT 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 10:00  
SUN 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20

**THE CALL OF THE WILD**  
HARRISON FORD | KAREN GILLAN  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PH** MON-FRI 6:00  
SAT-SUN 3:30 | 6:00

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:30  
SAT-SUN 1:30 | 4:00 | 6:30

**THE INVISIBLE MAN**  
ELISABETH MOSS | ALDIS HODGE

**PH** MON-THU 7:30  
FRI 7:30 | 10:15  
SAT 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15  
SUN 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30

**PBP** **VIP** MON-THU & SUN 6:35 | 9:15  
FRI-SAT 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:20

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**  
WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PBP** MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

**BIRDS OF PREY**  
MARGOT ROBBIE | MARY ELIZABETH WINSTED  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

**PBP** MON-SUN 9:25

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## Review: A moving turn from Ben Affleck in an ordinary drama

BY LINDSEY BAHR

There is nothing particularly extraordinary about director Gavin O'Connor's "The Way Back," except perhaps for Ben Affleck's performance. This is a quiet drama about a lonely alcoholic who gets a lifeline when he's asked to coach a high school basketball team. It's the kind of movie people like to say "Hollywood doesn't make anymore," which is only partly true. It's also the kind of movie you might feel like you've seen before (also partly true).

Affleck plays Jack Cunningham, a lumbering, middle-aged man who drinks all day, every day. He cracks open a can in the shower. He pours a little something into his coffee tumbler at his construction job. He drinks on the drive to the bar. He drinks in the bar. The next day he repeats the cycle all over again.

He's what you might call a functioning alcoholic, although this state of drifting through life in a booze-addled daze doesn't make him happy. He's merely surviving in his sad, dirty apartment until he gets a phone call from his past: The head of his old high school, Bish-

op Hayes, wants him to come back to the place he once ruled as an all-star player to coach their currently less-than-glorious basketball team.

It's exactly what you'd expect, but the scenes with the team are some of the best in the film — funny and spirited and wholly engaging — even if they do seem ripped from the playbook. But "The Way Back" doesn't fancy itself a typical sports drama. It's attempting to be more than that with a lot of threads and side plots that never quite develop to any satisfying end.

The basketball isn't the focus. Jack is. And this is a guy who's got a lot of ghosts that the movie takes its time to reveal. The script from Brad Ingelsby and O'Connor withholds a fair amount, perhaps to make "The Way Back" a more accurate reflection of how often people's past troubles come up in everyday life. But in retrospect, there's a nagging sense that it was just done for a cheap punch in the gut.

If there is an overriding problem with "The Way Back," it's that: The whole thing feels a little like a cheap punch in the gut.

Of course an audience is going to want to see Jack recover. Of course they're going to be heartened when he starts caring about the basketball team. Of course they're going to cheer when he wins and sigh at his inevitable slip-ups.

Or perhaps that's too cynical. "The Way Back" does seem to have been constructed with an earnest spirit, and Affleck carries the film well on his larger-than-usual shoulders, capably showing all sides of a down-on-his-luck alcoholic — the funny, the sweet, the explosive and the self-destructive. It's chilling to see the light go on in his eyes with a drink, and the moment when it goes out too. "The Way Back" is a promising move forward for a star who has always respectably skipped between genres. Still, it's not as compelling as Affleck's recent interviews about his own struggles, interviews characterized by honesty and specificity.

Affleck has it in him to use his personal experiences to make a great drama, whether writing, directing or acting, but "The Way Back" isn't it.

## Dave Matthews was inspired by his daughters to write a novel



This combination photo shows the cover image for the children's book, "If We Were Giants" by Dave Matthews and Clete Barrett Smith with illustrations by Antonio Javier Caparo, left, and a portrait of musician and author Dave Matthews.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — For his debut novel, Dave Matthews found inspiration close to home.

He was recording music in New Orleans years ago when he started imagining the story of "If We Were Giants." His twin daughters were 6.

While they played in the trees, the singer-songwriter was overwhelmed by nature and how people interact with it. So that prompted him to craft a story to share with them.

Though the story centers on a strong young woman, Matthews never set out to write a book about female empowerment. He says it just sort of happened.



# In 'Hillary,' Clinton candidly surveys her ups and downs

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) —

Since losing the 2016 election to Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton has released a memoir about that defeat, launched a political action committee and penned another book about "gutsy women" with her daughter, Chelsea. But Clinton's most prominent return to the public eye has come in the form of a new candid four-hour documentary series. Some, Clinton is aware, thought she would slink away after 2016.

"Yes, they did, didn't they?" says Clinton. "Well, that was never an option." Nanette Burstein's "Hillary," which Hulu will debut Friday, is a more direct and long-form portrait of Clinton than has ever been done on camera. You might say it's a bid for Clinton to reassert her legacy, to tell the story of a career and life that, she feels, has often been falsely distorted.

Still, Clinton isn't ready to contemplate her legacy. What she thinks important is situating her story in a larger narrative.

"What Nanette does really well is to place my story in the larger arc of women's lives, women's history, women's movement, and also the political system," said Clinton, speaking alongside Burstein, in an interview at the Sundance Film Festival in January. "It seems to me that part of the reason I became controversial is because I was thrust into the public spotlight as a different kind of first lady."

"And particularly when I took on the work of health care reform, trying to get us to universal, affordable health care, I was being burned in effigy, which I had forgotten," Clinton said. "But she found footage of it, which says more about the times and the expectations about what women and certainly first ladies should or shouldn't do."

Clinton's return to the spotlight, in the midst of a competitive Democratic primary, has already caused



Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton attends the premiere of the Hulu documentary "Hillary" at the DGA New York Theater on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

waves. In the documentary, she disparages Sen. Bernie Sanders, saying, "Nobody likes him. Nobody wants to work with him." It's a small moment — 15 seconds, Clinton points out — from some 35 hours of conversation recorded more than a year ago when she wasn't thinking about the 2020 election. She was thinking about the 2016 election.

"I will do whatever I can to support that person, because that wasn't my experience in 2016," says Clinton.

Though Clinton stumped for Barack Obama after he won the nomination on delegates (but, Clinton reminds, not in votes), Sanders' support for Clinton, she feels, was minimal after their race.

"That didn't happen in 2016," said Clinton. "And I'm just trying to sound the alarm that we need to

unify if we're going to defeat Donald Trump and what he stands for and the danger he poses to undoing so much of what we as a nation have achieved through lots of struggle over 235 years."

That Sanders has become the most headline-grabbing part of "Hillary" is ironic. For Burstein, one of the focal points of "Hillary" is to not only represent Clinton as a human being, rather than a political caricature, but to contextualize her, and the polarizing effect she has inspired, in the politics of gender.

"There is this criticism that she's always known and calculated that she's going to be president. Which, A, is not a bad thing, and, B, is actually not true," Burstein said. "There is an interview in the film with one of her colleagues at Yale Law School who says in the early 70s the idea that a

woman could be president was just so off the radar." Clinton's mind, at least in January, was mainly on the upcoming election. She said she'll "absolutely" endorse a candidate, but hasn't done so yet. One of her chief concerns is that the vote won't be carried out properly.

"It is a concern because once the Supreme Court gutted Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, they took away one of the most useful tools for holding states and local jurisdictions accountable for what they did around elections," Clinton said. "And I was the first candidate running for president on the Democratic side who faced both the gutting of the Voting Rights Act and Citizens United. So I saw firsthand the concerted effort to purge voters and suppress voters. That's still going on."

Clinton, who beat Trump in

the popular vote, favors the abolition of the Electoral College. "The person who gets the most votes should win," she said. "The Electoral College is an anachronism that foils the rights of the majority of Americans to choose our leaders."

Clinton also cited the role of social media platforms and, in particular, Facebook, in a potential repeat of Russian interference.

"The attacks on the fundamental right to vote and run our elections free from illegal, unconstitutional and certainly foreign interference is going to be even more sophisticated today than it was four years ago," Clinton said.

"Hillary" includes other voices, including some critical commentators (although Burstein says most right-wing politicians declined to participate). Along with a survey of Clinton's life, it spends copious amounts of time on the 2016 election and the Monica Lewinsky scandal. That section includes Bill Clinton voicing his regrets, as well as Clinton saying she didn't speak to her husband for weeks after he admitted the affair.

Clinton, who earlier revisited the 2016 election in her 2017 memoir "What Happened," also analyzes that crushing defeat. The 2020 election, though, she thinks will be different.

"I think there's a story now to be told. Before he was a blank slate. He was a guy that people saw on their TVs. As you know, he was a reality TV star," Clinton said. "Now I think there's a record that he's going to have to be held accountable for."

In "Hillary," all questions were on the table, Burstein said. Clinton grants she never expected to star in her own documentary.

"I am a little bit surprised to be sitting here talking about a documentary of four hours about my life and my times," said Clinton, laughing. "But I'm really glad I did it. I am incredibly grateful. But I also think a lot of what's in it is relevant to today." □



# Spring decor trends: soothing, soft, sustainable, stylish

By KIM COOK  
Associated Press

If you're looking for respite from this winter's weather and news, you'll find plenty of peace and quiet in the spring offerings beginning to show up at home decor retailers.

Two of the biggest trends at home furnishings trade shows have been pop-culture maximalism and modern minimalism. The former is loaded with vibrant imagery and color; the latter, however, is for those who want home to be a sanctuary. This is clean, modern decor with a handcrafted, soul-nourishing approachability, replete with nature references and sublime palettes.

"We're surrounded by the whirring din of contemporary life," says Jorge S. Arango, a Portland, Maine-based interiors stylist and co-author of seven design books.

"It's no wonder we want things that are simple and real, with hand-hewn textures that reassure us of a connection to our humanity."

He's seeing the trend at all price ranges.



**This photo shows a blanket by Blacksaw. Leftover alpaca, cotton and wool scraps are re-spun into beautiful camp-style blankets at Blacksaw, hardworking heritage pieces that would look just as lovely hung on a wall as artwork.**

Associated Press



**This photo shows a watercolor floral print from Ballard Designs. Painterly field study and landscape prints are part of this spring's softer approach to home décor.**

Associated Press

"We're craving products with the authenticity of natural materials, organic forms and warm tones of white," he says. "Cream, ivory, vanilla rather than starkly antiseptic shades, are plain, honest and uncomplicated."

At this winter's Ambiente in Frankfurt, Germany, one of the world's largest consumer goods trade fairs, "Shaped and Softened" was a trend, with the watchwords "subtle, restful, coherent and restrained." The palette evoked melty ice creams, warm earth and hazy summer skies.

Look for textiles with soft nap and weave like cashmere or boucle; linen; knitted, crocheted and felted wool; vegan suede; shaggy sheepskin; vegetable-dyed velvet. Items with a sustainability backstory have growing appeal in a marketplace that has often favored the replaceable and throwaway.

Leftover alpaca, cotton

and wool scraps are re-spun into cream and black camp-style blankets at Blacksaw. These hardworking heritage pieces could also be hung on a wall as artwork.

Longevity is part of the plan, says Blacksaw's founder, Kyle Taylor.

"The blankets started out as a vessel for design that had no expiry date. It would be passed on for generations, it would become a meaningful possession. One of the things in your life that was worthy of taking up space," Taylor says.

The interplay of light with decoration is part of the season's softer side, too. Hammered, buffed metals, like Target's Linberg brass side table, are soft to touch and have a pleasing glow. Horchow has brass and silver pendant and table fixtures; pierced patterning turns them into magic lamps.

Rattan and caning are in every retailer's spring furniture lineup. They let light travel through chair backs and room dividers, easing the footprint of these pieces in a room. Woven sea-

and objets d'art gives them an ethereal translucence. CB2 has onyx bowls and tea light holders from Bali and Thailand.

Siberian-born artist Anastasiya Koshcheeva has her studio, Moya, in Berlin, but harvests birch bark from her home country's taiga using methods that she says don't harm the trees. She fashions the bark into little boxes, light fixtures and even lounge chairs; she ships worldwide.

And then there's pattern. If the counterpoint trend this spring is 1980s power prints and blowsy Dutch florals, here we're looking at discreet, understated illustrations that celebrate the organic.

Look for Impressionist, photographic and field study images of flowers at Ballard Designs. Unfussy folk-art embroidery and earth-toned pieced panels are on throw pillows at West Elm and Target.

Limpid watery glazes on pottery by Berlin-based Anna Badur evoke frothy waves and tide pools.

Finnish artist Teemu Jarvi creates ink-pen illustrations



**This photo shows a blanket by Blacksaw. Leftover alpaca, cotton and wool scraps are re-spun into beautiful camp-style blankets at Blacksaw, hardworking heritage pieces that would look just as lovely hung on a wall as artwork.**

Associated Press

grass or paper rope make for rustic yet featherweight pendants and storage boxes at Target.

Matte finishes on ceramics mute the material's hardness. At Year and Day, find Portuguese clay vessels and plates in hues like midnight, fog, moon and daybreak.

Buffing or sanding glass and mineral vessels, plates

of wild mushrooms, animals, trees and rivers on paper, wool and cotton items. The artist says he was inspired by the Japanese practice of "forest bathing," retorative walks in the woods.

"I want my illustrations to calm you down and make you feel good, happy and grounded," he says. "I think nature has such power to enhance well-being." □